



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019

No. 18

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who rules the raging of the sea, we come to You today in the assurance not of our feeble hold on You but of Your mighty grasp on us.

Bring peace to our lawmakers that will tune their hearts to the music of Your will. Lead our Senators along the paths of righteousness to still waters and green pastures by Your redeeming grace. May our legislators so serve You that they will contribute to the coming of the day when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 29, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the unfinished business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, hundreds of thousands of Federal workers are, thank God, returning to work this week to tackle a backlog that has been building for over a month. Over that time, the U.S. economy suffered a loss of \$11 billion, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office—\$11 billion for the President's temper tantrum, including \$3 billion that can never be recovered. That is an expensive temper tantrum. The individual costs are even harder than the big numbers.

Who knows how many Federal workers missed a doctor's appointment or fell behind on their payments because they weren't getting their paychecks. Federal contractors will not get backpay and may have lost health insurance entirely during the shutdown. Senator SMITH is working on legislation to fix that problem.

While even Federal employees and contractors are returning to work, they still might be digging out of the hole that the Trump shutdown put them in. I hope this serves as a lesson to President Trump and all of my Republican colleagues—no more shutdown. We cannot repeat this same nightmare scenario in 3 weeks when the CR expires. We Democrats will not shut down the government. We hope President Trump has learned his lesson. He touched a very hot stove. We hope our Republican colleagues will join us, as they did last Thursday, to make sure there is no shutdown. Thankfully, I have heard several of my colleagues say that. A number of them, including some of the most senior Republicans, have said we shouldn't have another shutdown. So we look forward to working with you to avoid that in every possible way.

The House and Senate conferees should strive, instead, to find common ground where it already exists and build from there. The good news is they begin with plenty to work with. Democrats and Republicans agree on the need for stronger border security measures at our ports of entry as well as the need for more humanitarian assistance. That is a good place to start.

Plenty of column inches have been dedicated to the discussion of areas where Republicans and Democrats have friction, but several times over the past 2 years, Congress has come together to reach big compromises, including two budget agreements and a landmark Russia sanctions bill. The common theme of those agreements is that the President stayed out of the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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negotiations. Because President Trump gave Congress space to find a deal on our own, we were able to strike an accord. That is what we will need again if the conference committee is to succeed, because the President has no understanding of what the realities are in this Senate and in the House and no consistency in what he says one day and what he says the next. As I said, negotiating with President Trump is like negotiating with Jell-O.

So let Democrats and Republicans, the House and Senate, come to an agreement, and my guess is we can avoid a shutdown.

HUAWEI

Madam President, on another matter, yesterday afternoon, the Department of Justice unveiled nearly two dozen charges against the Chinese telecom Huawei in two indictments—one for the evasion of sanctions on Iran and another for its attempts to steal sensitive intellectual property from T-Mobile in the United States.

I am so glad the Justice Department announced these indictments yesterday. China has been flouting international sanction laws and, even worse, stealing IP and know-how for the last decade. State-connected telecom giants like Huawei are an example of how China operates. They are not the exception. They are the rule in China.

When China wants to supplant U.S. dominance in an emerging industry, it acts rapaciously. It steals. Our law enforcement needs to be especially vigilant with Chinese telecom companies such as Huawei and CTE, which intend to displace U.S. communications networks with their own 5G networks because those could give China access to all kinds of sensitive information. U.S. authorities should be prosecuting Huawei's criminal violations to the fullest extent of the law. I give the administration credit for having this suit go forward, but my message to President Trump now is this: Don't back down. While the Trump administration has shown signs of being tougher on China than either the Bush or Obama administration—which I commend them—President Trump has also tried the conciliatory approach, particularly at the moment when the administration is engaged in negotiations with the Chinese.

Just last year, President Trump let ZTE, another state-backed Chinese telecom that violated trade sanctions, off the hook in the hopes of achieving concessions from China on North Korea that never materialized. In December, the President said he would "certainly intervene" in the Huawei case if he thought it were necessary to achieve a trade deal with China.

President Trump, do not make the same mistake you made with ZTE by interfering with the Justice Department's prosecution of Huawei. The United States should not make any concessions unless and until China makes credible and enforceable commitments to end all forms of theft and

extortion of American intellectual property, which is exactly what Huawei is accused of.

KOCH BROTHERS

Madam President, finally, a comment on the Koch brothers. I read a column with interest today in the Washington Post. The Koch network has been trying to rebrand itself as less partisan. They are saying: Let's bring us together. Let's work with both sides.

That is a good instinct, but color me skeptical. The Koch brothers may sit out the Presidential contest, as they did in 2016, but their political arm, Americans for Prosperity, continues to support candidates who are divisive, who do not bring us together. Some of the ads you see, the very candidates they support, are dividing us. You can't, on the one hand, say you want to bring us together and use your political arm to tear us apart. Yet that is what the Koch brothers are doing.

They support the kind of judges who agree with them on all the corporate stuff. They don't want regulation, but they are against voting rights. How does that bring us together? They are against immigrants. How does that bring us together? At the State level, the Koch brothers' network of affiliates continues to support so many different initiatives that divide us. Through support for shadowy think tanks and pseudoacademic institutions, the Koch brothers continue to fund studies that sow doubt about climate change and evangelize deregulation.

It seems their highest priority is still to help the rich and powerful, no matter how divisive it is, as long as we can get our corporate taxes cut even further, cut the taxes for the wealthy, and stop the protections by preventing government regulations for average folks. As long as they do that, all this talk about coming together and supporting an occasional bill here and there doesn't mean much.

I hope that this beginning of what the Koch brothers say spreads. I hope it is not just sort of a figleaf because they are getting such bad publicity, and America is moving so far away from what they believe.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, for weeks, Democrats repeated the same refrain: Open the government, and we will negotiate on border security.

On Friday, the government was reopened. Now it is time for Democrats to honor their promise and work with

Republicans to provide adequate funding to address the security and humanitarian crisis at our border. The next 3 weeks will be a test of Democrats' seriousness about legislating. Do they really want to work with Republicans and the President on solutions? Are they willing to actually negotiate, which involves both sides making compromises, or are they more interested in obstruction? That is the question before the House.

Are they in Congress because they actually want to find solutions to challenges facing our country or are they here to score political points and oppose everything the President says or does? The answers should become pretty clear over the next 3 weeks. If Democrats meant what they said about negotiating on border security, we could produce a bill that will fulfill our responsibility to protect our borders. Make no mistake, it is a responsibility. Perhaps our greatest obligation as Members of Congress is to provide the funding and resources necessary to keep our Nation secure. No nation can be safe if it doesn't know who is coming across its borders.

Right now, we are facing a security crisis at our Nation's border. Tens of thousands of individuals try to cross our southern border illegally every single month. Illegal drugs flow into this country through ports of entry and unsecured areas of the border. The holes in our border security leave us susceptible to illegal entry by gang members, human traffickers, drug dealers, terrorists, weapons traffickers, and more. The flood of illegal immigration has also created a humanitarian crisis. Individuals attempting the journey to come here illegally are vulnerable to exploitation, illness, and abuse. Approximately, one out of every three women attempting the journey to the United States is sexually assaulted. Roughly, 70 percent of individuals become victims of violence along their way. Illness and other medical issues are also a serious problem. By failing to discourage illegal immigration, we are perpetuating this humanitarian crisis.

I hope, over the next 3 weeks, Democrats will honor their promise and come to the table on border security legislation in a real way, ready to engage in genuine negotiation and compromise so we can really address this crisis at our border.

S. 1

Last night, we moved to debate on a package of four bills related to U.S. policy in the Middle East. The Senate attempted to consider these bills earlier this month, but Democrats inexplicably chose to block these bipartisan pieces of legislation on three different occasions—three times. I am hopeful their decision last night to finally support consideration of these bills is a good sign that they are ready to turn to legislating instead of politicking.

The bill package before us this week addresses a number of key issues.

First, it will further strengthen our relationship with Israel, our closest ally in the Middle East. It authorizes 10 years of military assistance funding for Israel and reaffirms our commitment to ensuring that Israel has better weapons and equipment than its enemies. It will also foster increased technological cooperation between Israel and the United States to support the security of both our countries.

This legislation will also strengthen our relationship with another important ally of ours in the Middle East, and that is the Kingdom of Jordan. At a time when Jordan is facing security and humanitarian challenges stemming from the conflict in Syria, it is particularly important that we reaffirm our commitment to this key ally. This legislation will also help hold accountable individuals who supported the atrocities of the Assad regime in Syria. It directs the Treasury Department to investigate whether the Central Bank of Syria launders money for the Syrian Government. Finally, this legislation will protect the rights of State and local governments to decline to do business with entities that have chosen to boycott Israel.

I am glad we finally moved on to these important bills, and I look forward to voting for their final passage, hopefully, in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today with a sense of great disappointment—disappointment in what my colleague, the senior Senator from Florida, and the Republican leader have done with the bill before us today. They have taken a bill that had broad bipartisan support—maybe unanimous bipartisan support—and tried to turn it into a political weapon. In the process, they are doing a great disservice to the American people and to all of us who value the tradition of strong, bipartisan support for our friend and ally Israel.

I am a cosponsor of the original bill, S. 2497, entitled the “United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018.” It is a bill to codify the memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel. It was forged under President Obama and provides Israel with \$38 billion in security assistance over the next 10 years. This includes \$33 billion in foreign military financing funds to Israel and \$5 billion in missile defense assistance for the Iron Dome, David’s Sling, and Arrow 3.

That is a lot of money when you consider the many priorities we have here

at home and abroad. In fact, more than one-half of our entire global foreign military financing—the security assistance we provide to all of our partners and allies around the world—goes to Israel. In my view, that is an important investment. It is an important investment to support our friend and our democratic ally Israel from the many threats it faces in a very dangerous neighborhood—threats from Iran, Syria, Hezbollah, Hamas, and many others.

We need to make sure Israel maintains a strong military edge to defend itself, and that is why there was strong bipartisan support for that original bill. But then the Republican leader took a bill with broad bipartisan support for Israel and added a provision designed to retaliate against American citizens who express their disagreement with certain policies of the Government of Israel by participating in certain boycott activities. Specifically, the Senator from Florida added a provision that encourages States throughout the country to pass laws to punish American citizens who choose to protest the settlement policies of the government of Prime Minister Netanyahu by either boycotting products made in Israeli settlements in the West Bank or by not otherwise engaging in commerce with such settlements.

I want to make this clear. While I disagree with some of the policies adopted by the Netanyahu government in Israel, I do not—I do not—in any way support a boycott as a method of expressing those disagreements. Let me be equally clear. I will fiercely defend the constitutional right of any American citizen to express his or her views in such a peaceful way if they so choose, just as I would support the right of every American to engage in other political boycotts to peacefully express their political views without fear of being punished by their government.

The Senator from Florida and apparently the Republican leader want to use the power of the State to punish American citizens who disagree with them on this issue. It is right here in the bill. Let me read some of the relevant parts of the bill that is before us today: A State may adopt and enforce measures . . . to restrict contracting by the State for goods and services with any entity that . . . knowingly engages in . . . boycott activity . . . intended to limit commercial relations with Israel or persons doing business in Israel or Israeli-controlled territories for purposes of imposing policy positions on the Government of Israel.

How does this new provision encourage States to retaliate against American citizens? It is pretty clear from that language. It encourages States to pass laws to deny citizens the right to bid on any State contract unless—unless—those citizens sign an oath stating that they do not or will not engage in any boycott of Israel, including any boycott related to the sale or purchase

of goods or services from Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Think about that. Let’s say you are an American citizen living in my State of Maryland. Let’s say you own a computer consulting business, and you happen to disagree with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s government policy of expanding settlements on the West Bank near the city of Bethlehem, and you want to express your opposition to that policy. Let’s say you choose to protest that policy by deciding that you will not provide your services to businesses located in those settlements on the West Bank. If you did that, you would be prohibited by these State laws from bidding on a contract to provide computer consulting services to a Maryland State agency. Think about that. You may run the best computer consulting business in the State of Maryland, but if you don’t sign an oath renouncing your right to engage in a boycott, you cannot win any contract with the State. In other words, even if you were the best, most qualified bidder, you would be disqualified from winning that State contract because of your peaceful political activity, having nothing to do with your ability to fulfill the contract. Does that sound unconstitutional? Yes, it is blatantly unconstitutional. And guess what. That is what two Federal courts have already concluded about State laws that already do what Senator RUBIO’s bill is proposing. I am going to review those decisions in a moment, but before I do, let me respond to the very flimsy defense the senior Senator from Florida and others have offered to try to justify this effort to punish free expression.

Here is what Senator RUBIO tweeted: “Opposition to our bill isn’t about FREE speech. Companies are FREE to boycott Israel. But local & state governments should be FREE to end contracts with companies that do.”

This reflects a profound misunderstanding of the First Amendment. It turns the First Amendment on its head. It is like saying to our fellow Americans: You are free to peacefully express yourselves however you want, but the government is then free to use the power of the State to punish you for doing so. You are free to express your political opinions, but if we don’t like what you say, the State is free to pass laws to prevent you from doing any business with the State.

That is State-sponsored discrimination against disfavored political expression.

I would remind my colleagues that the First Amendment is not designed to protect the government from its citizens; it is designed to protect citizens who may engage in unpopular speech from retaliation by the government.

What if a State passed a law to penalize gun control advocates who boycotted stores that sold semiautomatic weapons? What if a State retaliated against anti-abortion activists who

boycotted health clinics that provided abortion services? We would all agree that is blatantly unconstitutional.

Senator RUBIO's proposal and the proposal advanced by the Republican leader is a textbook example of why we have a First Amendment.

I have heard others defend this measure by saying: "It is simply a law to boycott the boycotters." That is a cute slogan but, again, shows a stunning ignorance of the First Amendment.

Yes, any of us as individuals can always decide to boycott those whose boycotts we disagree with. Each of us as individuals is free to boycott those businesses that choose to boycott Israeli settlements in the West Bank, but that is not what this bill does. This bill calls upon States to use the power of the State, to use the power of government to punish peaceful political actions that we don't like. Again, that is patently unconstitutional.

That is the conclusion reached by two Federal courts that struck down the kinds of State laws Senator RUBIO and others seek to promote.

In Kansas, a Federal judge blocked the enforcement of a State law requiring any State contractor to submit a written certification that they are "not currently engaged in a boycott of Israel."

In the Kansas case, a woman who served as a public school math teacher for 9 years was barred from participating in a State-sponsored teacher training program because she refused to sign a certification that she wasn't participating in a boycott of Israel.

The court found that the anti-boycott certification requirement was designed to suppress political speech and was, according to the court, "plainly unconstitutional." In his opinion, the judge wrote: "The Supreme Court has held that the First Amendment protects the right to participate in a boycott like the one punished by the Kansas law." That is what the Federal district court judge stated.

In Arizona, a Federal court blocked a State law requiring contractors to certify that they will not boycott Israel, finding, again, that the law violates the right of free speech.

In this case, an attorney contracted with the Arizona State government to provide legal services to help individuals in prison. Because of his political views, the attorney refused to purchase goods from businesses supporting Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Because he would not submit to a written certification that he wasn't boycotting Israel, he was barred from contracting with the State to provide legal services.

In this Arizona case, the court held that "a restriction on one's ability to participate in collective calls to oppose Israel unquestionably burdens the protected expression of companies wishing to engage in a boycott. The type of collective action targeted by the [law] specifically implicates the rights of assembly and association that Americans

and Arizonans use 'to bring about political, social, and economic change.'"

There are a number of other challenges to laws requiring government contractors to certify they are not boycotting Israel or Israeli settlements on the grounds that they violate American's fundamental right to free speech—a right that Americans have even when their speech is not supported by a majority of us. That is the whole purpose of the First Amendment.

In Texas, there are two pending First Amendment challenges to a law requiring State contractors to certify they will not boycott Israel or its settlements. In the first Texas lawsuit, four individuals were required to choose between signing a certification that they are not participating in a peaceful boycott or losing income and other professional opportunities. These individuals include a freelance writer who lost two service contracts from the University of Houston; a reporter who was forced to sign the certification against his conscience in order to keep his job; and a Ph.D. candidate at Rice University who was forced to forfeit payment for judging at a debate tournament. It caused a student at Texas State University to forgo opportunities to judge high school debate tournaments.

In the second lawsuit, a Texas speech pathologist who had worked with developmentally disabled autistic and speech impaired elementary school opportunities for 9 years was fired because she refused to sign an addendum to her contract renewal saying she would not boycott Israel or Israeli settlements.

In my home State of Maryland, a software engineer is challenging an executive order requiring contractors to certify in writing that they are not boycotting Israel or its settlements. In that case, the individual was barred from bidding on government software program contracts because he would not sign such a certification.

These laws are blatantly unconstitutional.

Let me speak briefly to a recent court decision in Arkansas in which a Federal district court judge ruled in favor of a State law prohibiting Arkansas from contracting with or investing in individuals or firms that boycott Israel or its settlements.

This district court decision is destined for the dustbin of history. I am not sure any Senator on either side of the aisle wants to be associated with its holding.

It concludes that a boycott "is not speech, inherently expressive activity, or subject to constitutional protection." The banner right there on page 9 of the judge's opinion reads: "A Boycott is Neither Speech Nor Inherently Expressive Conduct." In other words, according to that district judge, States can pass laws banning or penalizing boycotts they don't like.

Years ago—and it was many years ago—as a college student, I was active in the movement to get companies to

divest from South Africa and boycotting companies that did business with the apartheid regime in South Africa. Under the Arkansas court decision, a State could pass a law that would ban that conduct or would at least penalize me if I wanted to do business with the State as a sole proprietor and sought State contracts.

There is no doubt that the Arkansas decision will be overturned. The Supreme Court explicitly held in the case of the NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware that the First Amendment protects the right to participate in a boycott for political purposes. The judge in the Arkansas case attempts to narrow that NAACP holding in a way that is clearly inconsistent with First Amendment protections. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to read all three Federal district court decisions from Kansas, Arizona, and Arkansas.

As I said earlier, I do not support the boycott of Israel as a means of pressing the Netanyahu government to change some of its policies. There are much better ways. We have to try to encourage our friend and ally to change some of the policies they disagree with.

Here is what I predict: I predict that the boycott movement will continue to grow for a number of reasons. At the top of that list is the fact that the Trump administration's actions, and inactions, are adding oxygen to the boycott movement.

To start, the Trump administration has abandoned any pretense of trying to prevent the expansion of Israeli settlements in new parts of the West Bank. There has been a big jump in the number of tenders and settlement plans since President Trump took office. In fact, our Ambassador there, Ambassador Freidman, has been a vocal cheerleader for additional settlements in new areas on the West Bank. In doing so, the Trump administration has abandoned what has been a long-held bipartisan position of the U.S. Government. Here are a few statements from Presidents of both parties over the last 40 years:

President Ronald Reagan, in 1982, said that "settlement activity is in no way necessary for the security of Israel and only diminishes the confidence of the Arabs that a final outcome can be freely and fairly negotiated."

President H.W. Bush, in 1990, said: "The foreign policy of the United States says we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem."

President Clinton, in 2001, said that "the settlement enterprise and building bypass roads in the heart of what they already know will one day be part of a Palestinian state is inconsistent with the Oslo commitment that both sides negotiate a compromise."

President George W. Bush, in 2002, said: "Israeli settlement activity in occupied territories must stop, and the occupation must end through withdrawal to secure and recognized boundaries."

Finally, President Obama, in 2009, said: “The United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements. This construction violates previous agreements and undermines efforts to achieve peace. It is time for these settlements to stop.”

So there you have a continuous line of bipartisan Presidents, Republicans and Democrats, expressing U.S. policy on the issue of settlements. The provision before us today in this bill directly contradicts this long-stated U.S. policy by drawing no distinction between someone boycotting businesses located in the State of Israel and someone boycotting businesses located in settlements in the territories. In other words, the provision before us—and the State laws it promotes—supports the same penalty for those who boycott commerce with a business in Tel Aviv as it does those who boycott commerce with businesses in the settlements, including outposts that may be illegal even under Israeli law. This provision before us erases an important distinction in American policy that has been endorsed by Presidents of both parties.

One of the reasons for discouraging settlements and outposts in new areas is to preserve the option of a two-state solution—an option that has previously been supported by Presidents of both parties, as well as pro-Israel groups, including AIPAC, J Street, and others. It is a demographic reality that in order to ensure a Jewish state that is democratic and provides equal rights to all its citizens, there must be a two-state solution.

Such a solution should come about through a negotiated settlement between the parties—between the Israelis and the Palestinians. We all know that dysfunction and obstruction on the Palestinian side has been one obstacle to reaching an agreement, but that does not justify changing the status quo on the ground by adding settlements in new areas that will make a two-state solution impossible.

Second, the Trump administration, under the guidance of the President's designated Middle East Senior Adviser, his son-in-law Jared Kushner, has embarked on an undisguised effort to crush the Palestinians by revoking all U.S. humanitarian assistance. Here we are, authorizing \$38 billion for U.S. military support for Israel—something I strongly support and am a cosponsor of—but at the same time, the Trump administration has eliminated humanitarian and other assistance to help the Palestinian people, many of whom are living in horrible conditions. The Trump administration has eliminated assistance that helps provide medical care, clean water, and food to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable Palestinian children and families. Much of this assistance is provided by organizations like Catholic Relief Services and the Lutheran World Federation.

President Trump has also eliminated \$25 million in U.S. support to a network of six hospitals in East Jeru-

salem, support the Congress explicitly protected under the Taylor Force Act. In doing this, he gutted funding for the main hospitals providing cancer treatment for patients in the West Bank and Gaza and kidney dialysis for children. These hospitals include Lutheran Augusta Victoria Hospital, the Anglican St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, and the Catholic St. Joseph Hospital—American-founded institutions that fall under our American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program.

The Trump administration has eliminated support for those programs, but the effort to crush the Palestinians into submitting to a one-sided agreement will never work. President Trump and Jared Kushner apparently think this is just another real estate deal where you turn off the water and electricity to force your tenants out. Instead, these actions by the Trump administration will only add fuel to the boycott movement because many people will see no other vehicle for expressing their views.

Finally, to the senior Senator from Virginia and others supporting this provision, nothing—nothing—will motivate Americans to exercise their rights more than efforts to suppress them. Trying to suppress free speech—even unpopular speech, even conduct we don't support here and I don't support—will only add momentum.

I will end where I started. It is a really shameful and disappointing day when the sponsors of this legislation took a bill demonstrating strong bipartisan support for Israel, for our friends and allies who share our commitment to democracy and share other values we hold dear—some Senators took that bill and used it as an attack on the constitutional rights of American citizens who may want to peacefully demonstrate their opposition to some of the Netanyahu government's policies, not in the way the Presiding Officer would choose, not in the way I would choose, but in a way they have a right to do as American citizens.

In making these changes to the bill, the sponsors are sabotaging what was a bipartisan bill to support our friend and ally Israel and, in the process, strengthening the very boycott movement we seek to oppose. That hurts Israel, that hurts the United States, and it is a really sad day in the U.S. Senate when we take something that we have all agreed on and decide to use it to attack the constitutional rights of American citizens with whom we may disagree. I am sorry it has come to this point. I hope my colleagues will think about this as we move forward in this debate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

S. 1

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon, Senate Democrats finally dropped their filibuster of S. 1, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act. It took 24 days and 4 cloture votes, but enough of my Democratic colleagues have now voted to advance this legislation concerning America's role in the world.

As I mentioned before, the bill would reaffirm our Nation's commitment to Israel's security through military assistance and cooperative missile defense, as well as loan guarantees. It would deepen our ties of strategic cooperation with Jordan, as the security and humanitarian ramifications of the Syrian civil war continue to take their toll, and the legislation also includes the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, which would hold accountable those who have enabled and carried out the butchery of the Assad regime.

But I would like to take a few moments this morning to discuss an amendment that I plan to propose as well. The amendment I plan to propose would expand on the legislation and take a further step to emphasize the need for American leadership in our troubled world, particularly with respect to our ongoing fight against al-Qaida and ISIS in Syria and Afghanistan. My amendment would acknowledge the plain fact that al-Qaida, ISIS, and their affiliates in Syria and Afghanistan continue to pose a serious threat to us here at home. It would recognize the danger of a precipitous withdrawal from either conflict and highlight the need for diplomatic engagement and political solutions to the underlying conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan.

We have seen the costs of a precipitous withdrawal before in Iraq, and in Afghanistan, we have seen the downsides of telling the enemy they can just wait us out; we will be gone on a date certain.

My amendment would also urge continued commitment from the U.S. military and our partners until—until—we have set the conditions for the enduring defeat of these vile terrorists. This measure would reflect the conclusions of our Nation's military and national security professionals. It would speak directly to our allies and reassure our local partners who are doing the bulk of the fighting against a shared enemy.

Simply put, while it is tempting to retreat to the comfort and security of our own shores, there is still a great deal of work to be done, and we know that left untended, these conflicts will reverberate right here in our own cities.

We are not the world's policemen, but we are the leader of the free world, and it is incumbent upon the United States to lead, to continue to maintain a global coalition against terror, and to stand by our local partners who are

engaged in the daily fight against the terrorists.

My amendment would further condemn Iran for its hampering of diplomatic efforts and its destabilizing work throughout the region. It would call for greater consultation with the United States' allies and partners in the region, especially Israel, with regard to future stability we seek in a critical region, and it would reiterate the importance of the administration's consulting and coordinating with Congress on its long-term strategies for success in these struggles, including a thorough accounting of the risk of withdrawing too hastily.

I am glad that, after needless political delays, our Democratic colleagues finally allowed a first procedural vote on this legislation.

I am proud to support its provisions that concern Israel, Jordan, and Syria, and I will be proud to offer this amendment so the Senate can speak equally clearly on the fight against al-Qaida, ISIS, and other bad actors that needs to continue in both Syria and Afghanistan.

H.R. 1

Mr. President, on a totally different matter, this week Democrats in the House are beginning the committee process for a bill they are saying is their party's signature priority for this Congress—their signature priority. They are so focused on this legislation that they have given it the ceremonial designation of H.R. 1—their top priority.

I think it more accurately could be described another way: the “Democratic Politician Protection Act.” This sprawling proposal—sprawling, comprehensive proposal—is basically the far left's entire Christmas wish list where our Nation's political process is concerned.

What would it do? It would pile new Washington-focused regulations onto virtually every aspect of how politicians are elected and what Americans can say about them.

My Democratic friends have already tried to market this unprecedented intrusion with all the predictable clichés: “restoring democracy,” “for the people.”

Really? The only common motivation running through the whole proposal seems to be this: Democrats searching for ways to give Washington politicians more control over what Americans say about them and how they get elected. It is an attempt to rewrite the rules of American politics in order to benefit one side over the other.

I expect I will be talking about the “Democratic Politician Protection Act” here on the floor for a long time, but I wanted to just take a few minutes today to give my colleagues a quick tour—just a quick tour through a few of its components.

To begin with, Democrats want to make the Federal Elections Commission a partisan institution. Since Washington

the FEC has been a six-member body. Neither party gets more than three seats—neither party. After all, the reason for that is this is a Commission with the sensitive duty of regulating Americans' speech—Americans' speech about politics and campaigns themselves.

The FEC should not be a weapon that one political party can wield against its rivals, but the legislation the Democrats are moving through committee would throw away—throw away—the bipartisan split. It would reduce the FEC to a five-member body and—listen to this—let sitting Presidents pick the majority—let sitting Presidents pick the majority. Obviously, this is a recipe for turning the FEC into a partisan weapon.

Democrats also empower the newly partisan FEC to regulate more of what Americans can say. That 3-to-2 FEC would get to determine what they subjectively see as “campaign related,” a new vague category of regulated speech.

There would also be new latitude to decide when a nonprofit's speech has crossed that same fuzzy line and subsequently force the publication of the group's private supporters.

All of this appears to be custom built to chill the exercise of the First Amendment and give Federal bureaucrats and the waiting leftwing mob a clearer idea of just whom to intimidate.

And this just scratches the surface of this proposal. The House Democrats are also eyeing an expensive new set of taxpayer subsidies for political campaign consultants. They want a new six-fold government match for certain types of political contributions—a new federally funded voucher program to line politicians' pockets with even more taxpayer dollars, plus—listen to this. That wasn't enough—taking our tax money to spend on attack ads and bumper strips and the like. Listen to this: 6 additional days of paid vacation for any Federal bureaucrat who decides they would like to hover around a polling place while Americans cast ballots.

So the new taxpayer subsidies don't even pass the laugh test, but other aspects of the bill are even more disturbing. Perhaps most worrisome of all is the unprecedented proposal to federalize our elections, giving Washington politicians even more control over who gets to come here in the first place.

Hundreds—literally hundreds—of pages are dedicated to telling States how to run their elections, from when and where they must take place to the procedures they have to follow, to the machines they have to use.

Democrats want to import the inefficiencies of State and Federal bureaucracy to ballot boxes and voter rolls, while making it harder for States and localities to clean inaccurate data off the voter rolls, harder to remove duplicate registrations, ineligible voters, and errors, and harder to check every

box Washington Democrats demand before allowing you to pick your representatives.

Provision after provision would make it easier for campaign lawyers to take advantage of disorganization, chaos, and confusion. Yet the proposal does practically nothing to combat the real live voter fraud that does happen right before our eyes.

It is suspiciously silent on the murky “ballot harvesting” practices that recently threw North Carolina's Ninth Congressional District into total chaos. There are pages and pages rewriting election law but nothing on this actual problem, perhaps because similar practices are perfectly legal in California—perfectly legal—where the Democratic Party made big gains in the House just last November.

So like I said, this has just been an introductory tour I am giving this morning—just an introductory tour. This sprawling power grab clocks in at 570 pages—570 pages. Seemingly every one of these pages is filled with some effort to rewrite the rules to favor the Democrats and their friends.

I have to say this: Our colleagues across the Capitol know what they are after. So I am going to continue to shed light on these far-left proposals many mornings. I want to make sure the American people understand what this is all about. I want to assure the American people, right from the outset, that my colleagues and I will fight to prevent this one-sided power grab. It may pass the House, but not the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:31 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

## STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 3 o'clock p.m. today, all postcloture time on the motion to proceed to S. 1 expire and the



Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to proceed to S. 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. For information of all of our colleagues, the vote will be at 3 o'clock.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL ON RUSSIA SANCTIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, a vote earlier this month on the administration's decision to ease sanctions on a Russian oligarch puts the Senate on record on where its Members stand in terms of holding Russia accountable for its continued actions against the United States.

We need to be clear about what we are facing. Not only did Russia conduct what I believe to be a cyber act of war against the United States during the 2016 election cycle, it continues to do so with the President and his administration, apparently, indifferent.

Make no mistake. Russia tried to interfere in the recent midterm elections, and it continues to do so against our democratic allies in Europe. What has been the response of this body—the U.S. Senate—sworn to uphold the Constitution, to protect against enemies, foreign and domestic? Other than the belated passage of a Russia sanctions bill in the last Congress—a bill whose sanction provisions this administration has been slow or unwilling to enforce—we have done almost nothing.

Let's start in 2016 when top officials from the administration's national security and intelligence community came and warned congressional leadership of Russia's ongoing and serious attack on our election—this was during the election campaign—rightly asking for a bipartisan statement to tell Russian dictator Putin to stop.

What was Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL's response to this request to protect our Nation?

No thanks; not going to do it.

History will no doubt look back with amazement at that decision.

What about the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—a historically celebrated body with jurisdiction over this Russian attack on the United States? It did not even conduct an investigation into Russia's actions in the last Congress. To date, I have heard no plans to do so in this Congress. That is incredible.

We have stunning reports—reports that normally would bring this city to a halt—of an FBI counterintelligence investigation opened on President Trump—whether the President called for the destruction of notes after meetings with Russian leaders . . . some-

thing unheard of in the history of that office . . . and that Trump has been asking about how the United States could possibly withdraw from the NATO alliance.

These are stunning developments, and they are not alone. For anyone paying attention, they shouldn't be surprised that our President is, in fact, pursuing policies the Russians could only dream of. They include the weakening of our democratic institutions; the weakening of our Western security alliance; the withdrawing of U.S. leadership on the global stage and ceding influence to Russia, Iran, and China; silence when Russia attacked Ukrainian naval ships; entertaining the idea of turning over an American ambassador to Russia for an absurd line of questioning; cozying up to global dictators and ignoring American values of democracy of human rights; and, of course, the President saying publicly and privately to Putin that he believes him instead of our intelligence experts when it comes to denying any attacks on democracy.

We also know that President Trump was incredibly suggesting such Russia-friendly policies during his campaign while at the same time pursuing business interests in that country.

I end with a question I have asked before on this floor. How can the party of Ronald Reagan continue to sit by while this President pursues policies aligned with a former KGB agent? Why are the first bills in this new Senate under Republican control not dealing with the serious threats to our Nation? Why isn't the Senate Foreign Relations Committee holding urgent hearings on these stunning developments between an American President and a Russian dictator, not to mention moving bipartisan legislation to protect U.S. membership in NATO?

Quite simply, with the government finally back open we need deal with these serious threats to our nation and democracy that we have heard involving our White House. When we are elected to office in Congress, we take an oath. In it, we swear to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The President similarly swears to preserve, protect, and defend our Constitution. As such, it is time for all of us—Democrats and Republicans—to speak up and fulfill our constitutional responsibility.

#### FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

Madam President, for anyone who thought the upheaval in the for-profit college industry was over or it was driven by an overzealous Obama administration determined to kill the industry, as some accused just a few short months ago, it is time to think again.

Just last month, amid the loving regulatory embrace of the for-profit college industry by President Trump's DeVos-led Department of Education, two major for-profit college chains have collapsed. It proves true the re-

cent warning by the Department of Education inspector general, Kathleen Tighe, that for-profit colleges represent a disproportionate risk to both students and American taxpayers.

The rot in the for-profit college industry runs much deeper than just the failures of Corinthian and ITT Tech. On December 17, for-profit college company Vatterott Colleges announced the immediate closure of its campuses nationwide, leaving 2,300 students stranded, including 200 at its campus in Fairview Heights, IL. The company had been in financial trouble for some time. It had already closed a number of campuses, including one in Quincy, IL.

The Department of Education must now provide Illinois and other Vatterott students with clear information about their options, including their eligibility to receive a closed school discharge of their Federal student loans and option to file a claim for a borrower defense discharge if they believe they were defrauded by the university.

In addition, the Department must make sure these students are not put at risk a second time by assuring that they have affordable, quality options to continue their education, such as community colleges. It would be adding insult to injury to allow these students to be lured by other predatory or financially shaky for-profit colleges, especially those facing State and Federal investigations.

Early in December, Education Corporation of America closed 75 campuses nationwide, affecting some 20,000 students. I am pleased, in this case, that the Department of Education developed a page on its website to inform ECA students about closed school discharges. It must do more to communicate with affected students and ensure they are able to continue their studies at quality, affordable institutions.

The vultures are already circling these students.

In a recent letter, Steve Gunderson, a former Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and lead lobbyist for the for-profit colleges and universities, announced that for-profit colleges are working to assist the students who were victims of these collapsed for-profit schools and that 20 for-profit colleges had already expressed interest in taking on these ECA students. It is simply double jeopardy to ask students, once defrauded by this industry, to be somehow rescued and lured into another contractual obligation by another school in the for-profit college industry.

Over the holiday season, around 30 campuses owned by Dream Center Education Holdings closed. They include the Argosy campus in Schaumburg, IL, and the Illinois Institute of Art—not to be confused with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a reputable organization.

In August, I led several of my colleagues in writing to Secretary DeVos,

asking her to provide immediate assistance to these students who had borrowed money to go to these worthless schools. We were concerned that Dream Center was not providing students with information about closed school discharges and was pushing them into other bad options, like enrolling in another for-profit school. Among other things, we asked the Department to post an information page on its website to inform the students. Even weeks after the closure, we have yet to receive a response to this letter from the Department of Education.

Adding to the confusion for students in Illinois is the fact that for months Dream Center misrepresented that the Illinois Institute of Art campuses were accredited, even when its accreditor had made clear that was not the case. I have called on Secretary DeVos to investigate this misrepresentation, especially as it relates to these students' eligibility for borrower defense discharges. The National Student Loan Defense Network has filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of Illinois borrowers against the company for this misrepresentation, while the Department of Education and Washington remain silent.

Now, reports have surfaced of a new restructuring of these schools, with few details but major implications for students. The Department of Education must immediately inform students and the public about these changes.

Earlier this month, 48 State attorneys general, including our own Illinois attorney general, now retired, Lisa Madigan, and the District of Columbia reached a settlement with for-profit giant Career Education Corporation over consumer violations by the company. Under the settlement, Career Education Corporation agreed to forgo collecting \$493 million owed to it by 180,000 students nationally—\$48 million in relief for 17,000 students in Illinois who had been exploited by this for-profit school. I have long spoken out about these abuses and the misconduct of Career Education Corporation schools, especially their infamous and now defunct Le Cordon Bleu, Harrington College of Design, and Sanford-Brown brands. These fellows really dream up some wonderful names for worthless schools.

Just last week, for-profit college operator National American University Holdings announced “substantial doubt” that its finances would allow it to remain in business over the next year. The company, which has faced lawsuits related to deceptive practices, runs campuses in about a dozen States and online. Its closure would affect thousands of students.

How many more for-profit college collapses, closures, and State legal actions will it take before we get serious at the Federal level, both in Congress and at the Department of Education, about protecting students and taxpayers from this industry?

It just amazes me that so many people in this body stand back and watch

the so-called for-profit colleges and universities exploit students and their families, watch them run up debts they will never be able to pay back, wait until they default, and then threaten them with lawsuits and collection agencies, instead of realizing at the outset that these schools are not reputable. These students are lured with promises the schools can't keep, and they are also lured into debt they will never be able to repay. They will never end up with a job that allows them to pay back the debt.

Don't take my word for it; think of two simple numbers. Nine percent of all postsecondary students go to for-profit colleges and universities—9 percent. Thirty-four percent of all federal student loan defaults are students from for-profit colleges and universities. Nine percent of the students; 34 percent of the defaults. Why would that be happening? Well, because they overcharge the students, and they provide them with a worthless diploma if they stick it out and don't drop out.

These schools are a blight on higher education and an exploitation of innocent students and their families. Who are the ultimate losers when their debts are discharged? American taxpayers who subsidize these miserable, good-for-nothing schools and then watch as they are not repaying their debts because the students can't, and the taxpayers end up the losers again. If that is capitalism at work, save this country, because it is a terrible outcome for the students, for their families, and for American taxpayers.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the time and start the vote now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 12 Leg.]

#### YEAS—76

Alexander	Fischer	Risch
Barraso	Gardner	Roberts
Bennet	Graham	Romney
Blackburn	Grassley	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hassan	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cardin	Jones	Sinema
Casey	Kennedy	Smith
Cassidy	King	Stabenow
Collins	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Coons	Lankford	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	Markey	Toomey
Cramer	McConnell	Warner
Crapo	McSally	Whitehouse
Cruz	Menendez	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Wyden
Duckworth	Murray	Young
Enzi	Perdue	
Ernst	Portman	

#### NAYS—22

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Udall
Durbin	Merkley	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	
Harris	Reed	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Moran	Paul
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The motion is agreed to.

### STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 65

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 65.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 65.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate that the United States faces continuing threats from terrorist groups operating in Syria and Afghanistan and that the precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from either country could put at risk hard-won gains and United States national security)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:



**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SENSE OF SENATE ON WITHDRAWALS OF UNITED STATES FORCES FROM SYRIA AND AFGHANISTAN.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The foreign terrorist organization al Qaeda, responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001, maintains a presence in Afghanistan.

(2) The Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham, better known by its acronym ISIS, flourished in the chaos unleashed by the civil war in Syria and at one point controlled extensive territory in Iraq and Syria.

(3) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have murdered thousands of innocent civilians.

(4) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have proven resilient and have regrouped when the United States and its partners have withdrawn from the fight against them.

(b) **SENSE OF SENATE.**—The Senate—

(1) acknowledges that the United States military and our partners have made significant progress in the campaign against al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS), and honors the contributions and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who have served on the front lines of this fight;

(2) recognizes the continuing threat to the homeland and our allies posed by al Qaeda and ISIS, which maintain an ability to operate in Syria and Afghanistan;

(3) expresses concern that Iran has supported the Taliban in Afghanistan and Hizballah and the Assad regime in Syria, and has sought to frustrate diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts in these two countries;

(4) recognizes the positive role the United States and its partners have played in Syria and Afghanistan fighting terrorist groups, countering Iranian aggression, deterring the further use of chemical weapons, and protecting human rights;

(5) warns that a precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from the on-going fight against these groups, without effective, countervailing efforts to secure gains in Syria and Afghanistan, could allow terrorists to regroup, destabilize critical regions, and create vacuums that could be filled by Iran or Russia, to the detriment of United States interests and those of our allies;

(6) recognizes that al Qaeda and ISIS pose a global threat, which merits increased international contributions to the counterterrorism, diplomatic, and stabilization efforts underway in Syria and Afghanistan;

(7) recognizes that diplomatic efforts to secure peaceful, negotiated solutions to the conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan are necessary to long-term stability and counterterrorism efforts in the Middle East and South Asia;

(8) acknowledges the progress made by Special Representative Khalilzad in his efforts to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan;

(9) calls upon the Administration to conduct a thorough review of the military and diplomatic strategies in Syria and Afghanistan, including an assessment of the risk that withdrawal from those countries could strengthen the power and influence of Russia and Iran in the Middle East and South Asia and undermine diplomatic efforts toward negotiated, peaceful solutions;

(10) requests that the Administration, as part of this review, solicit the views of Israel, our regional partners, and other key troop-contributing nations in the fight against al Qaeda and ISIS;

(11) reiterates support for international diplomatic efforts to facilitate peaceful, negotiated resolutions to the on-going conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan on terms that respect the rights of innocent civilians and deny safe havens to terrorists;

(12) calls upon the Administration to pursue a strategy that sets the conditions for the long-term defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS, as well as the protection of regional partners and allies, while ensuring that Iran cannot dominate the region or threaten Israel;

(13) encourages close collaboration between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch to ensure continuing strong, bipartisan support for United States military operations in Syria and Afghanistan; and

(14) calls upon the Administration to certify that conditions have been met for the enduring defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS before initiating any significant withdrawal of United States forces from Syria or Afghanistan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

**HOUSTON SHOOTING**

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I would like to start by saying a few words about the horrific shooting that occurred in Houston, TX, at about 5 o'clock yesterday.

A team of narcotics patrol officers from the Houston Police Department were serving a warrant. As soon as they breached the door at the home in southeast Houston, the suspects opened fire. Four officers were hit; one critically, and one other was injured as a result of an unrelated mishap. Three of these officers were in good condition, and two remained in critical but stable condition in the hospital.

For the case agent, the most senior officer on the narcotics squad, this was the third time he had been shot in the line of duty—once in 1992 and again in 1997. He told Chief Art Acevedo: “I had to get in there because I knew my guys were down.”

I echo the Houston Police Union President Joe Gamaldi, who said last night that enough is enough. This type of attack against law enforcement is unconscionable and unacceptable. These are dedicated public servants who have taken an oath to serve and protect our communities and who potentially sacrifice their very lives every day to keep our families safe.

Today, with a heavy heart, I want to thank the Houston Police Department and law enforcement officers across the country who put on the uniform each morning, never knowing what the day might bring. We are incredibly grateful for their service and the tremendous sacrifices they make.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the Houston Fire and EMS Department who moved Heaven and Earth to ensure these heroic, wounded officers got the medical care they needed as soon as possible.

I thank my friends Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Chief Acevedo for their leadership during this very difficult time for the city of Houston and our entire State.

My wife Sandy and I are praying for the officers, their families, and their brothers and sisters in blue.

S. 1

Madam President, on another matter, the Senate is, of course, considering S. 1, a package of four bills that

were considered in the 115th Congress, but the clock ran out before these bills could be voted on, on the Senate floor.

Each of these bills enjoys broad, bipartisan support, and I am glad we have the opportunity to push this legislation over the finish line this week.

The administration recently announced that U.S. troops will begin a conditions-based withdrawal from Syria. While we await additional details on the timeline and extent of this move, we must take action to ensure the stability of the region during the process and reassure our allies of our commitment.

My friend and colleague Senator RUBIO, the lead sponsor of this bill, once compared the threat of ISIS to a tumor. He said: If you treat a tumor with radiation, it will get smaller and smaller and smaller, but if you stop before it is completely gone, it will come back. So it is with ISIS.

First and foremost, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act supports our allies in the region, including Israel and Jordan. With Israel in particular, the bill authorizes the United States to provide military assistance to support funding cooperative programs to develop, produce, and procure essential military equipment, such as defensive missiles and rockets. This will help Israel maintain its qualitative military edge against increasingly well-equipped, Iranian-backed forces.

This bill also provides U.S. State and local governments with greater flexibility to counter the boycott, divestment, and sanctions, or BDS, movement. This anti-Israel crusade has waged economic war against the Jewish State by pushing companies around the world to boycott any business with Israel or its entities.

This does not outlaw BDS activity but instead provides State and local governments with the same flexibility afforded to private companies. They can decide not to do business with companies that are boycotting or divesting from Israel.

To support our ally Jordan, this bill authorizes legislation to strengthen our defense cooperation. With an estimated 740,000 refugees in Jordan—a very small country—this legislation recognizes the immense impact the ongoing conflict in Syria continues to have on neighboring countries, including Jordan, and it supports that government's effort to provide ongoing humanitarian support.

The final piece of the bill speaks to the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Syria, which has claimed the lives of some 400,000 people—400,000 people. It provides aid to impacted communities and condemns the heinous human rights violations committed by the Assad regime. Notably, it imposes new sanctions on anyone who does business with or otherwise financially supports the Syrian regime.

This is certainly not an effort to put Humpty Dumpty back together again.

Unfortunately, Syria has been broken by the civil war and the fact that Iran, Russia, and terrorist organizations are all vying for space and influence, but it is an important step to protect U.S. interests in the region. That is what this bill represents.

Notably absent are strong measures focused on addressing the region's primary antagonist, the nation of Iran—the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or IRGC, is a branch of Iran's Armed Forces with an unconventional role. Unlike military operations that promote national security, the IRGC tries to squash democracy movements both at home and abroad by pushing its extreme ideology beyond Iran's borders. This branch wields vast power and influence, and it uses its capabilities to spark turmoil throughout the Middle East.

What I find particularly concerning is that the IRGC, the primary military appendage of the Ayatollah, is the one in control of Iran's ballistic missile system. That is the same program which, unfortunately, only accelerated under the previous Presidential administration of President Obama.

The primary enemy of the IRGC is Israel, which it threatens both directly through its land bridge across Iraq and Syria and indirectly through its support of terrorist groups, such as Lebanese Hezbollah, Hamas, and other Palestinian militant groups. The IRGC funds terrorist proxies by providing heavy weapons, training, and funds to advance the Iranian regime's goal of regional domination. It has helped Hezbollah alone to amass more than 100,000 missiles capable of striking virtually anywhere in the State of Israel.

The financial machines that keep these operations afloat consist of a clandestine network of front companies, including energy, construction, telecommunications, banking, and financial sectors. We are not talking about just a handful of small businesses here. It is estimated that the IRGC alone controls one-quarter of Iran's economy.

So, yes, this legislation does take important steps to promote U.S. interests in the Middle East, but actions against the IRGC are desperately needed.

In addition to the threat already posed by this group, we cannot allow our withdrawal from Syria to open up the window to Iran and its terrorist proxies. Today, I am offering an amendment to this legislation that will address the actions of the IRGC. This amendment enjoyed bipartisan support last Congress with 8 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate and more than 220 cosponsors in the House. This amendment is entitled the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, and it will take steps to increase economic pressure on the aggressive actions taken by Iran and executed by the IRGC.

The bill will impose additional sanctions on the IRGC by lowering the

threshold to sanction entities supporting these activities. That means the front companies that are bankrolling the IRGC's attacks against our allies can now be sanctioned, effectively cutting off their cash flow. In addition, it penalizes any other person or company that supports the IRGC, including a complete ban on transactions with U.S. businesses or individuals.

Of course, in order to sanction any entity, we first have to know that they are associated with the IRGC. This bill would require that entities for which there is a reasonable basis to believe IRGC owns at least 33 percent be reported and included. It also requires a report analyzing foreign and domestic supply chains that in some way support or aid the IRGC and its activities.

I hope my colleagues will support this amendment, which takes a strong stand against Iran, the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism, and its military arm, the IRGC. This group has supported the genocidal Assad regime and has the blood of countless innocent civilians on its hands.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am very happy to be joined by my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that she be recognized to speak at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, we are here to talk about the risks to our New England coastal communities from the climate changes coming our way.

Despite the really dirty efforts of the fossil fuel industry to keep the truth at bay, the tide of public understanding is turning. A recent survey by Yale and George Mason Universities found that 73 percent of Americans now see global warming happening. That number is up 10 percentage points since 2015. Similarly, the percentage of Americans who consider global warming an important issue rose from 63 percent to 72 percent in the past 10 years. In just the past year, the number of Americans who say they are worried about global warming jumped from 61 to 69 percent. One author of this research explained the results to the New York Times this way:

People are beginning to understand that climate change is here in the United States, here in my state, in my community, affecting the people and places I care about, and now. This isn't happening in 50 years, 100 years from now.

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe of Texas Tech University echoed these sentiments, saying: "Today, nearly everyone can point to a way that they are personally witnessing and are being personally affected by the impacts of a changing climate in the places where they live."

Perhaps nowhere is this more true than along our coasts, where manmade climate change is already flooding towns, driving fisheries away from tra-

ditional fishing grounds, and bringing ashore stronger storms riding on higher seas.

Last Tuesday, I picked up my home State paper, the Providence Journal, and I saw this headline splashed across the front page regarding climate change: "Washed Away. . . . Home values lost to rising sea levels."

This is a study I have mentioned before. It was done by the First Street Foundation and researchers at Columbia University and looks at what escalating flood risk is doing to coastal housing markets. That study started in Florida—peer-reviewed work in Florida—and they took that methodology and have been working their way up the gulf coast and the New England coast since then. They just reached my State and Senator HASSAN's State, and the report is not pleasant. They found that Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island lost a total of \$403 million in expected property value between 2005 and 2017 due to increased tidal flooding risks. Just between 2005 and 2017, Rhode Island coastal properties lost nearly \$45 million in expected value. The study called out these particular properties in Warren, RI, that lost over one-third of their value during that timeframe. Rhode Islanders in the town of Warwick lost over \$4 million in home values due to the threat of climate change-driven sea level rise.

Several studies warned how climate change will affect coastal property values. The First Street Foundation study is the first to demonstrate value loss that has already occurred, as the study itself says. A Columbia University researcher who worked on the First Street study said this:

Each time we analyze a new state we see the same phenomenon. Increased tidal flooding leads to a loss in home value appreciation. As sea level rise accelerates, we expect the corresponding loss in relative home value to accelerate as well.

That hits home indeed. The latest scientific evidence shows sea levels rising at a faster pace than expected. NOAA data shows that Greenland lost around 280 billion tons of ice per year from 2002 to 2016. A National Geographic article covering this study noted: "The Greenland ice sheet is 10,000 feet thick in places and contains enough ice to raise sea levels 23 feet."

Another study shows that the Antarctic ice sheet has lost around 252 billion tons of ice per year over the last 10 years. Again, according to National Geographic, full melting of the Antarctic ice sheet could mean nearly 187 feet of sea level rise.

In Rhode Island, our Coastal Resources Management Council has been a longtime leader in modeling flooding and sea level rise risks for Rhode Island's coastal businesses, communities, and decision makers. Earlier this month, CRMC partnered with the University of Rhode Island to release a series of highly detailed risk maps for several coastal Rhode Island towns.

These maps provide a damage assessment for individual structures due to flooding and storm waves for homes and businesses and critical infrastructure, like the Warren wastewater treatment plant, which is right there on the coast of Warren, RI; the facility will be almost totally wiped out. CRMC's maps turn these general risks facing our communities from a hazy sketch to a vivid, living-color, 3-D picture, and that picture is grim for these coastal communities.

Rhode Island officials are currently preparing for a worst case scenario of more than 9 feet of sea level rise overtaking our 400 miles of coastline by the end of the century. This map is from Rhode Island's CRMC's interactive STORMTOOLS application, which overlays the sea level rise projections over our current topography. The blue all through here is currently land that is flooded when 10 feet of sea level rise come. This extra little rim of green on some of the edges is when you push it up to 12 feet. As we see all of the blue here, think of homes and businesses and properties that are owned by people and that are going to literally disappear into the ocean if we don't pay attention. These are the homes and businesses of my constituents.

A 2017 report from the real estate database company Zillow identified over 4,800 homes in Rhode Island, valued at near \$3 billion, that would be underwater by 2100, using an optimistic estimate of only 6 feet of sea level rise.

In this snapshot from Upper Narragansett Bay, you can see some of Rhode Island's larger coastal communities stranded as a scattered series of new islands, a Rhode Island archipelago. Today's map of Rhode Island—the map that we have known since our founding—will become unrecognizable as Warwick Neck here breaks off to become its own island, Newport south of this map splits, and Bristol through here comes apart.

A recent report from Climate Central and Zillow looked at new homes being built in risky coastal areas—ones expected to suffer from annual floods by 2050 under a moderate greenhouse gas emissions model—and they show Rhode Island has seen more growth in risk areas than in safe areas. Obviously, if emissions don't meet these moderate goals, things are going to get a good deal worse, and well before water actually overtakes your home, well before the water is coming through the front door will come the economic effects of rising oceans, and they will be big.

In 2017, GAO reported that coastal areas face particularly high financial risks and that annual coastal property losses from sea level rise and increased storms will run into the billions of dollars every year in the short run and over \$50 billion every year by late century. EPA has estimated “\$5.0 trillion in economic costs to coastal property from climate change through 2100”—\$5 trillion, and that is the Rhode Island part of that. The Union of Concerned

Scientists reports that sea level rise will double the number of coastal communities facing what they call “chronic inundation and possible retreat”—meaning you are out of there—by 2035.

The market is awakening to these risks. Moody's evaluates municipal bonds. It has begun evaluating the bonds of coastal communities with an eye to this flooding risk. Banks, mortgageors, insurance companies, and appraisers are starting to incorporate these risks into their work for coastal properties.

A recent issue of the Appraisal Institute's Valuation magazine quoted Rhode Island appraiser Brad Hevenor, warning that homes that receive a 30-year mortgage this year “might be completely different types of property [by the end of their mortgage] than they are today.” Good luck getting a 30-year mortgage on a property that the bank believes will be “completely different” by the end of the mortgage.

The coastal housing market is on the precipice of a dangerous financial cliff. First Street, Zillow, NOAA, GAO, EPA, Climate Central, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and others all make the same warning.

Federal home mortgage giant Freddie Mac said it this way: “The economic losses and social disruption may happen gradually, but they are likely to be greater in total than those experienced in the housing crisis and Great Recession.”

The editor of the insurance industry trade publication Risk & Insurance said this: “Continually rising seas will damage coastal residential and commercial property values to the point that property owners will flee those markets in droves, thus precipitating a mortgage value collapse that could equal or exceed the mortgage crisis that rocked the global economy in 2008.”

These are serious warnings, and they are deadly serious warnings for our coastal States. Here in Congress, these warnings fall on deaf ears—ears plugged deaf by the fossil fuel industry's persistent mischief.

We have to get serious about our duty to our constituents. Polling shows that millions of Americans want us to face up to this threat, to safeguard their coastal property, and to curb the carbon pollution that is distorting our Earth's climate and raising our Earth's oceans. It is seriously time for us to wake up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I want to start by thanking my colleague, Senator WHITEHOUSE from Rhode Island, not only for his remarks today but for his leadership on this issue. I rise today to join him in highlighting the toll climate change is taking on coastal communities throughout New England. Senator WHITEHOUSE has been a fierce advocate, and he is dedicated to and continues to push our col-

leagues to address the dire reality of climate change. I am here to join him in that effort.

In New Hampshire's Seacoast region, our State's beautiful coastline helps propel our economy forward, supporting industries such as tourism and commercial fishing and contributing to our high quality of life. Just as proximity to the ocean provides vital opportunities, our communities are finding that as climate change intensifies, these communities are increasingly at risk.

As you can see from this photo that was taken last year in Rye, NH, stronger storms and rising sea levels are leading to increased flooding in our coastal areas. As Senator WHITEHOUSE mentioned, our communities are already feeling the direct economic impacts of rising sea levels.

According to the First Street Foundation and Columbia University, the increased risk of flooding and damage is hurting property values throughout New England. That report states that New Hampshire has already seen a \$15 million loss in property value, particularly in areas such as Hampton, Exeter, Dover, and Portsmouth. Combined with the rest of the New England States, coastal properties have experienced approximately \$400 million in property value losses just between 2005 and 2017.

The extent of those losses is just the beginning of the damage. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association has estimated that New Hampshire's sea levels are expected to rise between 0.6 and 2 feet by 2050 and between 1.6 and 6.6 feet by 2100. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, rising seas could threaten more than 5,000 homes on the seacoast of New Hampshire by the end of the century.

Our climate is changing. Sea levels are rising. This is undebatable. Climate change and sea level rise are not threats to some distant time in the future; these threats—this damage—are here. These threats are taking their toll now. The people of New Hampshire know this. We are witnessing climate change in our communities in real time as storms get more intense and the floodwaters go higher.

It is our responsibility to help our communities adapt to these changes. This starts with focusing on planning for resiliency to help vulnerable communities prepare and on improving our infrastructure and developing strategies to help plan ahead for storms and extreme weather events.

At the local level, Granite Staters on the seacoast are already being proactive on this front. Community members have formed advocacy groups, and local governments have focused on addressing these challenges head-on and developing resilient strategies. We have to support their efforts.

We also must do more. We need to redouble efforts to cut carbon emissions, conserve and protect our natural resources, and build a stronger, clean energy future. People are calling on us to

act. Study after study has shown that as more Americans see the direct threats from climate change in their own communities and in the lives of their fellow citizens, they are becoming increasingly worried. It is time for us to start dealing with reality and to address their concerns.

I will keep working to address climate change and to achieve a cleaner environment and stronger energy future that will help our citizens, our economy, and our businesses thrive. I urge my colleagues to join us in those efforts.

Again, I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for being a leader in those efforts.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The Senator from Tennessee.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE DANIEL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, late in December, I announced that I would not be a candidate for reelection to the U.S. Senate in 2020, and that prompted this cartoon in the Knoxville News Sentinel by Charlie Daniel:

He says his name is Alexander. He says he is going to walk across the State. Wonder how far he will go.

Here is some character wandering across the State in a red and black shirt, which is what I did 40 years ago when I walked across the State running for Governor.

I would like to return the favor to Charlie Daniel because he announced last week that he is retiring from drawing cartoons in the Knoxville News Sentinel, which is a much more significant event than anything I might do because Charlie Daniel has been a fixture in Tennessee for a long time with his gentle skewering of politicians in the Knoxville newspapers.

Charlie's cartoons have been the first things I have looked for in the Knoxville newspapers since the year I graduated from Maryville High School in 1958. That is when Charlie first began drawing for the Knoxville Journal.

Charlie is a self-taught artist who says he has been drawing ever since he "picked up a pencil." After a stint in the Marine Corps, Charlie studied political science at the University of North Carolina, and he started drawing for the school newspaper. He moved to Knoxville, where he started drawing at what was known as the Knoxville Journal in 1958. That is when I first saw Charlie Daniel's cartoons. He worked at the Journal until it closed in 1992 and then moved to the Knoxville News Sentinel, where he has been ever since. Some of his main subjects for his cartoons have been sports, social causes, and, of course, politics.

Over the years, Charlie has had plenty of opportunity to skewer me, and he has done it with vigor. Actually, it has been honest, usually gentle, and always effective. For example, as I was working on legislation, which became law this past year, to ban the use of cell phones on airplane flights, Charlie drew a cartoon characterizing cell phone yappers on long flights as the

"perfect hell," with the Devil asking why he didn't think of that.

Charlie's drawings are well known not just in Tennessee but all across our country. In 2016, the National Cartoonists Society honored Charlie with a proclamation recognizing his career. He was inducted to the sixth class of the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame last year, and the University of Tennessee library has a special collections department with more than 20,000 of these drawings. There are about a dozen that the University of Tennessee doesn't have because I have them in my office or in my home.

Charlie's contributions have been recognized by Tennesseans for decades. Our former Governor, Bill Haslam, said: "For as long as I can remember, Charlie has been making us laugh and think." Former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, Jr., also from Knoxville, as is Governor Haslam, said Charlie was "the personification of civilized relevant political humor." Former Knoxville mayor and Ambassador to Poland, Victor Ashe, said: "Charlie Daniel has been an icon and institution across the country."

East Tennesseans have been fortunate that Charlie and his family have called our region home. For over six decades, Charlie's drawings have been the first thing that I and many others have looked for in the newspaper, and it is going to be harder to start each day without the humor and the touch of Charlie Daniel.

Thank you, Charlie. Congratulations to you on your retirement. I wish you and Patsy and your family the best on behalf of grateful Tennesseans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The majority leader.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for Senate amendment No. 65.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Senate amendment No. 65 to Calendar No. 1, S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Thune, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Josh Hawley, Rick Scott, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, Cory Gardner, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Todd Young.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-08, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$2.150 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,  
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.  
Enclosures.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-08

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment \* \$.375 billion.

Other \$1.775 billion.

Total \$2.150 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two (2) AEGIS Weapon Systems (AWS).

Two (2) Multi-Mission Signal Processors (MMSP).

Two (2) Command and Control Processor (C2P) Refreshes.

Non-MDE: Also included is radio navigation equipment, naval ordnance, two (2) Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Systems, Global Command and Control System-Maritime (GCCS-M) hardware, and two (2) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS), U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical, engineering and logistics support services, installation support material, training,

construction services for six (6) vertical launch system launcher module enclosures, communications equipment and associated spares, classified and unclassified publications and software, and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (JA-P-NCO).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 29, 2019.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Japan—Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Missiles

The Government of Japan has requested to buy two (2) AEGIS Weapon Systems (AWS), two (2) Multi-Mission Signal Processors (MMSP) and two (2) Command and Control Processor (C2P) Refreshes. Also included is radio navigation equipment, naval ordnance, two (2) Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Systems, Global Command and Control System-Maritime (GCCS-M) hardware, and two (2) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS), U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical, engineering and logistics support services, installation support material, training, construction services for six (6) vertical launch system launcher module enclosures, communications equipment and associated spares, classified and unclassified publications and software, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$2.150 billion.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region. It is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Japan in developing and maintaining a strong and effective self-defense capability.

This proposed sale will provide the Government of Japan with an enhanced capability against increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile threats and create an expanded, layered defense of its homeland. Japan, which already has the AEGIS in its inventory, will have no difficulty absorbing this system into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor for the Aegis Weapon System and Multi-Mission Signal Processors will be Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems, Washington, DC. The Command and Control Processor Refresh will be provided by General Dynamics, Falls Church, VA.

There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require annual trips to Japan involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews, support, and oversight for approximately eight years.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-08

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

#### Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AEGIS Weapon System (AWS) is a multi-mission combat system providing inte-

grated Air and Missile Defense for surface ships. This sale consists of the modified J7 Foreign Military Sales (FMS) baseline (AWS Baseline 9.C2 along with Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) 5.1 capability). No integrated Anti-Air Warfare capability will be provided. AWS Software, documentation, combat system training and technical services will be provided at the classification levels up to and including SECRET within approved release and disclosure guidelines. The manuals and technical documents are limited to those necessary for operational use and organization maintenance.

2. Hardware includes AWS Computing Infrastructure Equipment, including Blade Processors, Fire Control System (FCS) MK 99, Vertical Launching System (VLS) MK 41, combat system support equipment, logistics support equipment, and the Digital Signal Processing Group. The Digital Signal Processing group will be derived from the Multi-Mission Signal Processor and will be integrated with Lockheed Martin's Solid State Radar (SSR) which is being procured by Japan via Direct Commercial Sale contract. The Digital Signal Processing Group will be capable of BMD mission only. The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. The AN/UYQ-120(V) Command and Control Processor (C2P) System is a Tactical Data Link (TDL) message distribution system that provides real-time control and management of Tactical Digital Data Links (TADILs) in support of all major surface ship and shore Command, Control, and Communications (C3) systems. The C2P is a follow-on Technical Refresh (TR) upgrade for the legacy AN/UYQ-86(V) variants 1 through 7 of the Common Data Link Management system (CDLMS). The AN/UYQ-120(V) C2PS has three variants depending on the host site in which it is installed and only uses trusted software. The highest classification of the hardware and software to be exported is SECRET. Identification and security classification of classified equipment, major components, subsystems, software, technical data, documentation, training devices and services to be conveyed with the proposed sale.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary obtained knowledge of the specific hardware or software in the proposed sale, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapons system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that Japan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Japan.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, vice chairman of the committee, that the annual report for the Select Committee on Ethics for calendar year 2018 be printed in the RECORD. The committee issues this report today, January 29, 2019, as required by the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS 116TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

JANUARY 29, 2019

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the Act) calls for the Select Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report no later than January 31st of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the Committee's activities in 2018 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: 138. (In addition, 6 alleged violations from the previous year were carried into 2018.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 109. (This figure includes 1 matter from the previous year carried into 2018.)

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 11. (This figure includes 1 matter from the previous year carried into 2018.)

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 16. (This figure includes 3 matters from the previous year carried into 2018.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit or because it was inadvertent, technical or otherwise of a de minimis nature: 9.

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 1.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2018, the Committee staff conducted 1 new Member and staff ethics training session; 22 Member and committee office campaign briefings (includes 1 remedial training session); 23 employee code of conduct training sessions; 6 public financial disclosure clinics, seminars, and webinars; 12 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; 4 private sector ethics briefings; and 5 international briefings.

In 2018, the Committee staff handled approximately 12,539 inquiries (via telephone and email) for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2018, the Committee wrote approximately 782 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 564 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 124 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2018, the Committee received 4,680 public financial disclosure and periodic disclosure of financial transactions reports.

# SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Rules for the 116th Congress be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS—116TH CONGRESS COMMITTEE RULES

### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 1. The Standing Rules of the Senate, Senate Resolution 4, and the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, as supplemented by these rules, are adopted as the rules of the Committee to the extent the provisions of such Rules, Resolution, and Acts are applicable to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

#### MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 2. The Committee shall meet on Wednesday/Thursday while the Congress is in session for the purpose of conducting business, unless for the convenience of the Members, the Chairman shall set some other day for a meeting. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman as he may deem necessary.

#### OPEN HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

Rule 3(a). Hearings and business meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Chairman by a majority vote orders a closed hearing or meeting.

(b). Except as otherwise provided in the Rules of the Senate, a transcript or electronic recording shall be kept of each hearing and business meeting of the Committee.

#### HEARING PROCEDURE

Rule 4(a). Public notice, including notice to Members of the Committee, shall be given of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be held by the Committee at least one week in advance of such hearing unless the Chairman of the Committee, with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman, determines that holding the hearing would be non-controversial or that special circumstances require expedited procedures and a majority of the Committee Members attending concurs. In no case shall a hearing be conducted with less than 24 hours' notice.

(b). Each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall submit his or her testimony by way of electronic mail, at least 48 hours in advance of a hearing, in a format determined by the Committee and sent to an electronic mail address specified by the Committee. In the event a federal witness fails to timely file the written statement in accordance with this rule, the federal witness shall testify as to the reason the testimony is late.

(c). Each Member shall be limited to five (5) minutes of questioning of any witness until such time as all Members attending who so desire have had an opportunity to question the witness unless the Committee shall decide otherwise.

#### BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Rule 5(a). A legislative measure or subject shall be included in the agenda of the next following business meeting of the Committee if a written request by a Member for consideration of such measure or subject has been filed with the Chairman of the Committee at least one week prior to such meeting. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to limit the authority of the Chairman of the Committee to include legislative measures or

subjects on the Committee agenda in the absence of such request.

(b). Any bill, resolution, or other matter to be considered by the Committee at a business meeting shall be filed with the Clerk of the Committee. Notice of, and the agenda for, any business meeting of the Committee, and a copy of any bill, resolution, or other matter to be considered at the meeting, shall be provided to each Member and made available to the public at least three (3) days prior to such meeting, and no new items may be added after the agenda is published except by the approval of the Chairman with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman or by a majority of the Members of the Committee. The notice and agenda of any business meeting may be provided to the Members by electronic mail, provided that a paper copy will be provided to any Member upon request. The Clerk shall promptly notify absent Members of any action taken by the Committee on matters not included in the published agenda.

(c). Any amendment(s) to any bill or resolution to be considered shall be filed by a Member of the Committee with the Clerk not less than 48 hours in advance. This rule may be waived by the Chairman with the concurrence of the Vice Chairman.

#### QUORUM

Rule 6(a). Except as provided in subsection (b), a majority of the Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Committee. Except as provided in Senate Rule XXVI 7(a), a quorum is presumed to be present unless the absence of a quorum is noted by a Member.

(b). One Member shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting a hearing or taking testimony on any measure or matter before the Committee.

#### VOTING

Rule 7(a). A recorded vote of the Members shall be taken upon the request of any Member.

(b). A measure may be reported without a recorded vote from the Committee unless an objection is made by any Member, in which case a recorded vote by the Members shall be required. A Member shall have the right to have his or her additional views included in the Committee report on the measure in accordance with Senate Rule XXVI 10.

(c). A Committee vote to report a measure to the Senate shall also authorize the staff of the Committee to make necessary technical and conforming changes to the measure.

(d). Proxy voting shall be permitted on all matters, except that proxies may not be counted for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum. Unless further limited, a proxy shall be exercised only for the date for which it is given and upon the terms published in the agenda for that date.

#### SWORN TESTIMONY AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Rule 8(a). Witnesses in Committee hearings who are required to give testimony shall be deemed under oath.

(b). At any hearing to confirm a Presidential nominee, the testimony of the nominee and, at the request of any Member, any other witnesses that come before the Committee shall also be under oath. Every nominee shall submit a questionnaire on forms to be provided by the Committee, ethics agreement, and a public financial disclosure report, (OGE Form 278 or a successor form) which shall be sworn to by the nominee as to its completeness and accuracy and be accompanied by a letter issued by the nominee within five (5) days immediately preceding the hearing—swearing that nothing has changed in their financial status or documents since the documents were originally filed with the Committee. The public finan-

cial disclosure report and ethics agreement shall be made available to the public by the Committee unless the Committee, in executive session, determines that special circumstances require a full or partial exception to this rule.

(c). Members of the Committee are urged to make public a complete disclosure of their financial interests on forms to be perfected by the Committee in the manner required in the case of Presidential nominees.

#### CONFIDENTIAL TESTIMONY

Rule 9. No confidential testimony taken by, or confidential material presented to the Committee, or any report of the proceedings of a closed Committee hearing or business meeting shall be made public in whole or in part, or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of the Members of the Committee at a business meeting called for the purpose of making such a determination.

#### DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS

Rule 10. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified in, or who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at, an open Committee hearing tends to defame him or her or otherwise adversely affect his or her reputation may file with the Committee for its consideration and action a sworn statement of facts relevant to such testimony of evidence.

#### BROADCASTING OF HEARINGS OR MEETINGS

Rule 11. Any meeting or hearing by the Committee which is open to the public may be covered in whole or in part by television, Internet, radio broadcast, or still photography. Photographers and reporters using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting devices shall position their equipment so as not to interfere with the sight, vision, and hearing of Members and staff on the dais or with the orderly process of the meeting or hearing.

#### AUTHORIZING SUBPOENAS

Rule 12. The Chairman may, with the agreement of the Vice Chairman, or the Committee may, by majority vote, authorize the issuance of subpoenas.

#### AMENDING THE RULES

Rule 13. These rules may be amended only by a vote of a majority of all the Members of the Committee in a business meeting of the Committee: Provided, that no vote may be taken on any proposed amendment unless such amendment is reproduced in full in the Committee agenda for such meeting at least seven (7) days in advance of such meeting.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO EVELYN ELLIS-HAINES

● Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, for the first Granite Stater of the Month of 2019, I am proud to recognize fifth grader Evelyn Ellis-Haines of Belmont for her work helping those in need. Through a youth civics program at her school, Evelyn launched a clothing drive, and with the support of her teachers and classmates, she collected more than 700 items to donate to some of our most vulnerable citizens in the Granite State.

Evelyn was inspired to start her clothing drive because, in her words, she "wanted to help people." Addressing poverty is something that has always concerned Evelyn. Her family even recalls her making baked goods to



give to people she saw experiencing homelessness and often asking why they could not do more to help them. When the opportunity to participate in New Hampshire's Kid Governor Program arose, Evelyn created a platform based on addressing poverty and worked with her school to start a clothing drive. Every Monday in December, she reminded her classmates during their school assembly to bring items to donate, which resulted in her collecting hundreds of items in just under a month.

Evelyn donated the items to the largest family shelter in her community and wants to continue working to help address poverty. She will be volunteering with the same organization this summer and hopes to expand her clothing drive beyond just her school. For her efforts to support her community and help those in need, I am proud to recognize Evelyn as the January 2019 Granite Stater of the Month.●

#### VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY WINNERS

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, since 2010 I have sponsored a State of the Union essay contest for Vermont high school students. This contest gives students in my State the opportunity to articulate what issues they would prioritize if they were President of the United States.

This is the contest's 9th year and I would like to congratulate the almost 600 students who participated. It is truly heartening to see so many young people engaged in finding solutions for the problems that face our country. To my mind, this is what democracy is all about.

A volunteer panel of Vermont teachers reviewed the essays and chose Firdaus Muhammad as this year's winner. Firdaus, a freshman at Essex High School, focused on the rise of Islamophobia across the Nation. Jackson Maiocco, a senior at Bellows Falls Union High School, was the second place winner. Jackson wrote about military spending and the impact our defense budget has on our Nation. Joseph Brody, a senior at St. Johnsbury Academy, was the third place winner, having written about voter suppression.

I am very proud to enter into the Congressional Record the essays submitted by Firdaus, Jackson, and Joseph.

The material follows:

FIRDAUS MUHAMMAD, ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL,  
FRESHMAN, WINNER

September 11, 2001—a day that all Americans remember. A day that changed so many lives. A day when I wasn't even alive yet. Yet 9/11 was a day that changed my life. Fast forward eleven years to 2012. I was in third grade and had just made the decision to start wearing the hijab in public. I had awoken that winter morning with the intention to wear my hijab to school, but I was naive. I didn't know that by wearing the hijab, I became a symbol of Islam. I didn't realize that by wearing a piece of cloth on my head, I was

suddenly a nine year old representing all 1.7 billion Muslims across the globe.

It's 2019. Eighteen years have passed since 9/11. It's been seven years since I started wearing the hijab publicly. The racism against Muslims has only gotten worse. The hatred and Islamophobia has spread like wildfire, affecting every Muslim in its path. Women's hijabs are being ripped off, racist slurs are being spit at Muslims, and the angry stares have only increased. The rise of Islamophobia during these past years has been exacerbated by President Trump's Travel Ban. On January 27, 2017, President Trump signed the Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States Order. This became known as the Travel Ban or essentially, the Muslim Ban. Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, North Korea, and Venezuela were all affected by this ban. It's not a coincidence that five of these countries have a majority Muslim population.

I clearly remember watching the news with my dad and hearing all the racist names being thrown at Muslims. Being an eleven year old Muslim girl, I couldn't comprehend how people could be so rude and racist to one another. I didn't understand why Muslim families were suddenly being torn apart because they were deemed "unsafe". Why were people suddenly so scared of Muslims? Didn't they know that Islam was a religion founded on peace and justice? A religion of equality and kindness? How can we live in "The Land of the Free" when Muslims are afraid of being targeted based solely on their religion? I am lucky enough to live in Vermont where most people are quite respectful and accepting of each other. But I also know that there are other Muslims who are not so lucky. Those Muslims who feel isolated in their offices, schools, and other public places.

I believe that in order to solve this huge racial problem, we must learn to accept each other's differences. We should not discriminate against others based on their religion. We need to make sure that we represent people as they are, not based on stereotypes. We cannot let the actions of a few people reflect the beliefs of a whole religion. The United States is a country of diversity, a country built by immigrants. Any person who comes from any religion, deserves to feel respected and welcomed in this country.

JACKSON MAIOCCO, BELLOWS FALLS UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR, SECOND PLACE

For decades, an excess of military spending has plagued our nation while there are many vital areas that would prosper with the reallocation of some military spending. The majority of our nation's federal budget is dedicated to the military; in 2018, the US spent a grand total of \$623 billion on national defense. This huge sum of money dwarfs the amount that President Trump allocated to the Department of Education: a mere \$68 billion. I know that sounds like a considerable amount of money, so I'll put it in perspective. For every dollar spent on education, nearly \$11 went to the military. This simply can't stand.

In fiscal year 2018, the US Federal Budget was roughly a trillion dollars. President Trump made good on his promise to slash federal budgets, but increased the defense budget by almost 10%. Considering the size of the defense budget, a 10% increase is huge: \$52 billion, to be exact. Areas that were negatively affected by Trump's budget cuts were the Department of Education, which had a 14% budget slash, and the Department of Health and Human Services, which lost 18% of its federal funding. Every country's main goal should be the scientific and social advancement of their citizens and society as a whole, so the damage done by Trump's bud-

et cuts is incredibly detrimental to our nation. Meanwhile, we're pouring unprecedented amounts of money into building tanks that will never see action; according to Eric Husher, former Senior Balkan Intelligence Analyst (1992-1996), there are over 4,000 M1 Abrams tanks sitting in the Nevada desert collecting dust. Keep in mind that it costs upwards of \$4.3 million to assemble an M1 Abrams. So collectively, there's roughly \$17 billion worth of American taxpayers money sitting in a parking lot in Nevada. But wait, it gets worse. These tanks aren't being built for use; they're simply being built to keep a factory running. This needless military spending is incredibly detrimental to our country. Excessive military expenditures results in slower economic growth, and, as outlined above, is simply a waste of money.

The only feasible solution is to gradually decrease military spending, and invest those funds into more worthwhile areas such as education, science, and healthcare. Far right hawks and conservatives might argue that a drastic decrease in military expenditures would leave us exposed and weak, but the evidence states otherwise. In fact, even if we cut our military budget by 80%, we would still have military superiority in the world.

In the words of legendary journalist Hunter S. Thompson, "Every Republican administration since 1952 has let the military-industrial complex loot the treasury and plunge the nation into debt on the excuse of a wartime economic emergency." With no such emergency anywhere in sight, our tax dollars should be spent on more worthwhile investments.

JOSEPH BRODY, ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY,  
SENIOR, THIRD PLACE

Democracy was founded on the fundamental principle that the power of government is derived from the consent of the governed. Throughout the course of our nation's history, this foundation has been fractured by the disenfranchisement of low-income and minority groups. The Jim Crow laws, for example, prevented African Americans from voting through poll taxes and literacy tests. While the means of voter suppression have become less glaring, the United States continues to systematically suppress underrepresented populations from exercising their Fifteenth Amendment right. In order to ensure that our democracy is accessible and fruitful for all, the United States must abolish Voter ID laws and reform Election Day.

First of all, minorities are silenced by the Voter ID laws. As Attorney General Eric Holder simply stated, "We call those poll taxes." Voter ID laws inhibit minority voters because they present additional barriers to an already problematic voting process. Even though obtaining identification is often touted as "free," Harvard Law School asserts that the cost of supporting documents can exceed \$175. Given that minorities are often in the lowest income brackets, this price can be insurmountable and disproportionately prevents African Americans from receiving identification. The Brennan Center for Justice revealed that nearly 25% of African Americans lack necessary identification in comparison to just 8% of their white counterparts. According to The University of San Diego, the beneficiaries of Voter ID laws are largely "whites and those on the political right." Clearly, this not only alienates minorities, but produces politicians who are not concerned with their interests. The solution is simple: eradicate Voter ID laws. Though many express concern about voter fraud, this fear is baseless. Professor Justin Levitt confirms that there have only been 31 cases of credible voter impersonation since 2000. In short, Voter ID laws are a refurbished Poll Tax; under the mask of "fraud

prevention," only the disenfranchised stand to be silenced.

Election Day is a hindrance because it occurs on a Tuesday. The working class cannot afford lost wages or lost energy from standing in hours-long lines. The result of this awkward timing: low-income Americans cannot afford to vote. According to the Pew Research Center, 63% of the most financially secure Americans voted in the 2014 election, while only 20% of the least financially secure were able to make it to the poll. In effect, the population that bears the greatest burdens possesses the least political power. In actuality, Election Day was established on a Tuesday so that farmers wouldn't miss church or market day. The government needs to act with a similar intent and align Election Day with the schedule of the working class. It should be a federally mandated holiday and stretch across Saturday and Sunday. For those unable to vote, absentee ballots should be guaranteed and expedited.

Ultimately, eliminating Voter ID laws and reforming Election Day will make voting accessible to all Americans. Voting is at the heart of democracy, and once this is realized, the quality of life for all Americans will be heightened.●

#### 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALABAMA AND TUSCALOOSA

● Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to call attention to the special significance of the year 2019 in our great State of Alabama. This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our State and my hometown, the city of Tuscaloosa.

Tuscaloosa was incorporated on December 13, 1819, which was one day before the State of Alabama was admitted to the Union. Beginning in 1826 and extending for more than two decades, Tuscaloosa was the State capital of Alabama. This period marked the historic opening of the University of Alabama, the construction of a stately capitol building, and the city's transformation as a center for education, healthcare, and industry. Strategically situated on the banks of the Black Warrior River, Tuscaloosa became a thriving hub for foundries, cotton mills, forestry, and marine commerce.

Founded in Tuscaloosa in 1831, the University of Alabama, which is the beloved alma mater of my family along with countless others, has become one of America's premier public research universities. The Capstone of education, the University serves the citizens of Alabama as well as students, faculty, and staff who come from throughout the United States and around the globe to pursue a world-class education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The university proudly partners with Stillman College and Shelton State Community College, as well as an abundant community of K-12 schools, to hold stature as a major center for educational excellence.

Today Tuscaloosa is recognized as one of the region's most economically prosperous cities. International corporations join homegrown industries and businesses to provide a robust climate for job creation, industrial expan-

sion, and a quality of life that is envied and admired by one and all. Recreational amenities, cultural gems, and championship athletic teams are legendary.

On December 13, 2018, the Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Commission dedicated Bicentennial Square in Government Plaza, located in the heart of the city's burgeoning downtown district. Over the next 12 months, citizens will join together in a diverse calendar of events and programs that will educate, celebrate, and feature 2019 as a year to remember.

I share in the RECORD a schedule of events for "Tuscaloosa 200," together with the names of the bicentennial commission members who, along with dozens of other volunteers, have devoted countless hours to planning and organizing the bicentennial commemoration, as well as the companies whose generosity made possible the extensive, yearlong celebration: dedication of Bicentennial Square at Government Plaza, December 13, 2018; ringing in Tuscaloosa 200 bicentennial fireworks, December 31, 2018, at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheatre; Tuscaloosa 200 bicentennial launch ceremony, January 31, 2019, at the Tuscaloosa RiverMarket; the Bicentennial Bash Family Activities and Music Saturday, March 30, 2019, at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheatre; "Tuscaloosa Through Time" history expo, April 24-27, 2019, at the Bryant Conference Center; "Welcome Back to T-Town Celebration" in conjunction with the Druid City Music Festival, Friday and Saturday, August 23-24, 2019; community book experience, "The History of Tuscaloosa," by Dr. Guy Hubbs, September 22, 2019, Federal courthouse; and Tuscaloosa 200 birthday party and holiday parade, Friday, December 13, 2019, preceded by "200 Voices for Tuscaloosa," December 12, 2019, Moody Concert Hall.

Members of the Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Commission: Lyda Black, Robert Ennis, Kari Frederickson, Sarah Elizabeth Heggem, Shelley Jones, Elizabeth McGiffert, Pam Parker, Tim Parker, Cathy Randall, Kellee Reinhart, Don Staley, and Harrison Taylor.

Bicentennial Sponsors and Donors: Presenting Sponsors—Mercedes Benz USI, Coca Cola, DCH Health System; Capital Donor—city of Tuscaloosa, the University of Alabama; Chief Tuscaloosa Donor—Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports; Druid Oaks Donor—Harrison Family Foundation, Hunt Refining Company, Nucor Steel, Parker Towing Company, PECO Foods, Inc., Reese Phifer Memorial Foundation, Randall-Reilly, TotalCom; Black Warrior Donor—Bryant Bank, College Station Properties, Harrison Construction Company, Industrial Warehouse Services, Inc., McAbee Family Foundation, McGiffert and Associates, LLC/Price McGiffert Construction Co. Inc., Regions, Synovus, Westervelt; City Champion Donor—Cadence Bank, Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, BF Goodrich, Jamison Money Farmer, PC, Jun-

ior League of Tuscaloosa, R.L. Zeigler Company, Inc., Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation, Tuscaloosa Rotary Memorial Foundation.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 56. An act to establish an Independent Financial Technology Task Force to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, to provide rewards for information leading to convictions related to terrorist use of digital currencies, to establish a Fintech Leadership in Innovation and Financial Intelligence Program to encourage the development of tools and programs to combat terrorist and illicit use of digital currencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 502. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on how virtual currencies and online marketplaces are used to buy, sell, or facilitate the financing of goods or services associated with sex trafficking or drug trafficking, and for other purposes.

H.R. 624. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of Rule 10b5-1 trading plans, and for other purposes.

At 5 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

At 5:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 424. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance process throughout the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 428. An act to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency.

H.R. 449. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary of State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

H.R. 495. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement.

H.R. 504. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 769. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Cuellar of Texas, Chairman.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Higgins of New York, Chairman.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. Connolly of Virginia, Chairman.

### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 56. An act to establish an Independent Financial Technology Task Force to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, to provide rewards for information leading to convictions related to terrorist use of digital currencies, to establish a Fintech Leadership in Innovation and Financial Intelligence Program to encourage the development of tools and programs to combat terrorist and illicit use of digital currencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 424. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance processes throughout the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 428. An act to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 449. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 495. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 502. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on how virtual currencies and online marketplaces are used to buy, sell, or facilitate the financing of goods or services associated with sex trafficking or drug trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 504. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 624. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of Rule 10b5-1 trading plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 769. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-163. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a, for a period not to exceed 14 days before assuming the duties of the position for which the higher grade is authorized, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-164. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-165. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (A&S), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-166. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-167. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-168. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower & Reserve), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-169. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a va-

cancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-170. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Energy, Installations & Environment), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-171. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-172. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Loan-Level HMDA Data" (Docket No. CFPB-2017-0025) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 24, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-173. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Safety Evaluations of Technical Specifications Task Force Traveler TSTF-557, Revision 1, 'Spent Fuel Storage Rack Neutron Absorber Monitoring Program'" (NUREG-1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, and 2194) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-174. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-175. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Col. Frank A. Rodman, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Robert D. Harter, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Charles M. Schoening, to be Brigadier General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. David W. Ling and ending with Col. Rodney J. Fischer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2019.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report

favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Saleh P. Dagher and ending with Neville A. Welch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2019.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Rico Acosta and ending with Christina F. Zimmerman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2019.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 249. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 250. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the exclusion of individuals from service on a Federal jury on account of sexual orientation or gender identity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 251. A bill to establish the Interdiction for the Protection of Child Victims of Exploitation and Human Trafficking Program to train law enforcement officers to identify and assist victims of child exploitation and human trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 252. A bill to authorize the honorary appointment of Robert J. Dole to the grade of colonel in the regular Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 253. A bill to coordinate the provision of energy retrofitting assistance to schools; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 254. A bill to rescind the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive Federal law to facilitate the construction of border barriers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN

HOLLEN, Ms. HASSAN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 255. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include individuals receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits under the work opportunity credit, increase the work opportunity credit for vocational rehabilitation referrals, qualified SSI recipients, and qualified SSDI recipients, expand the disabled access credit, and enhance the deduction for expenditures to remove architectural and transportation barriers in the handicapped and elderly; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 256. A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 257. A bill to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 258. A bill to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 259. A bill to impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in international doping fraud conspiracies, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 260. A bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to transform their business and program models, to support individuals with disabilities to transition to competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JONES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WICKER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 261. A bill to extend the authorization of appropriations for allocation to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 262. A bill to provide for a pay increase in 2019 for certain civilian employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 263. A bill to ensure the receipt of required compensation before physical posses-

sion by the Federal Government of any land subject to the use of eminent domain for the construction of United States border infrastructure and to provide for a consultation process prior to acquiring land for border infrastructure; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 264. A bill to prohibit the construction of certain elements of a physical barrier along the southern border of the United States in Federal wildlife and wilderness areas and on State land; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 265. A bill to develop a national strategy to prevent targeted violence through behavioral threat assessment and management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. JONES):

S. 266. A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MCSALLY, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 267. A bill to provide for a general capital increase for the North American Development Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 268. A bill to reauthorize the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and certain wildlife conservation funds, to establish prize competitions relating to the prevention of wildlife poaching and trafficking, wildlife conservation, the management of invasive species, and the protection of endangered species, to amend the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 to modify the protections provided by that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 34. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Governments of Burma and Bangladesh ensure the safe, dignified, voluntary, and sustainable return of the Rohingya refugees who have been displaced by the campaign of ethnic cleansing conducted by the Burmese military and to immediately release unjustly imprisoned journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

S. 21

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act.

S. 30

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 30, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services for certain covered beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 91, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 104

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 104, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 160

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 162

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 162, a bill to provide back pay to low-wage contractor employees, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend the

Public Health Service Act to prohibit governmental discrimination against providers of health services that are not involved in abortion.

S. 185

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to require certain financial assistance under the State energy program and the Weatherization Assistance Program to be distributed without undue delay to support State and local high-impact energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.

S. 200

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 200, a bill to prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike absent a declaration of war by Congress.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to enhance tribal road safety, and for other purposes.

S. 209

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 209, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 222

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 222, a bill to amend section 1341 of title 31, United States Code, to require payment of interest on back pay for employees affected by a lapse in appropriations.

S. 238

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 238, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

S. 246

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 246, a bill to block the implementation of certain presidential actions that restrict individuals from certain countries from entering the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 58

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the

Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 58 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. JONES):

S. 266. A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, public schools play a vital role in every community across the Nation. They play a central role in our democracy—educating the next generation, serving as polling places for our elections, hosting community meetings and events, and so much more. When there is a natural disaster or an emergency, people often gather at their public schools for shelter, information, and resources. They are essential facilities and must be included in any new major federal investment in infrastructure. That is why I am proud to partner with Chairman SCOTT in the House of Representatives in introducing the Rebuild America's Schools Act to fix our schools. I would like to thank my Senate colleagues who are joining in this effort, including Senators BROWN, CORTEZ MASTO, HASSAN, WARREN, WHITEHOUSE, CASEY, CARDIN, DUCKWORTH, MERKLEY, HARRIS, HIRONO, GILLIBRAND, VAN HOLLEN, ROSEN, BLUMENTHAL, and SANDERS.

Safe, healthy, modern, well-equipped schools are essential for advancing student achievement and ensuring that the next generation is prepared to meet the economic, social, environmental, and global challenges our nation faces. Yet, too many of the over 50 million students and six million staff who learn and work in our public schools spend their days in facilities that fail to make the grade. A 2014 Department of Education study estimated that it would cost \$197 billion to bring all public schools into "good" condition. Nationally, there is also a \$38 billion funding gap in annual capital construction and new facility funding, as reported in the 2016 State of Our Schools report. Despite the benefits and need, however, Federal funding accounts for 0.2% of the total current capital investment in our schools.

State and local communities cannot bridge this gap alone. Last November,

Rhode Island voters approved a general obligation bond of \$250 million dollars—the largest statewide bond ever—to upgrade our public school facilities. However, the State had identified over \$2.2 billion in needed improvements to school infrastructure. Rhode Island is not the only State facing a school infrastructure crisis. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave public school buildings across the country an overall grade of D+ in their 2017 report card. The scope of the school infrastructure crisis is more than many, States or communities can address on their own. The Federal government can and should be a partner in upgrading our public school facilities.

Addressing this need is not only the right thing to do for our students; it will also give a needed boost to our economy, putting people to work in family sustaining jobs. According to an analysis by the Economic Policy Institute, every \$1 billion spent on construction generates 17,785 jobs.

The Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2019 will create Federal-State partnership for school infrastructure. It will provide, over ten years, a total of \$100 billion in direct grants and school construction bonds to help fill the annual gap in school facility capital needs, while creating nearly two million jobs.

Specifically, the Rebuild America's Schools Act will provide \$7 billion per year in formula funds to States for local competitive grants for school repair, renovation, and construction. States will focus assistance on communities with the greatest financial need, encourage green construction practices, and expand access to high-speed broadband to ensure that all students have access to digital learning. Our legislation would also provide \$30 billion for qualified school infrastructure bonds (QSIBs), \$10 billion each year from FY 2020 through FY 2022, and restore the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABS) that were eliminated in the Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The legislation also eases the matching requirements and expands the authority and eligible purposes of QZABS to allow local education agencies to construct, rehabilitate, retrofit, or repair school facilities. The Rebuild America's Schools Act also supports American workers by ensuring that projects use American-made iron, steel, and manufactured products and meet labor standards.

I would like to thank the broad coalition of educators, community organizations, unions, civil rights advocates, and employers that have provided feedback and support for this legislation, including the American Federation of Teachers, Association of Educational Service Agencies, Association of School Building Administrators International, Brick Industry Association, Californians for School Facilities, Council of Great City Schools, Healthy Schools Network, International Union of Operating Engineers, International

Union of Painters and Allied Trades, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Concrete Masonry Association, National Education Association, National PTA, National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium, National Rural Education Association, National Urban League, North America's Building Trades Unions, Organizations Concerned About Rural Education, Public Advocacy for Kids, Rebuild America's Schools, Rural School and Community Trust, Secure Schools Alliance, Teach Plus, Twenty-First Century Schools Fund, and U.S. Green Building Council. We look forward to expanding this coalition in the weeks and months ahead.

We have no time to waste in fixing our deteriorating school infrastructure. In the words of a student activist in Providence, "Students cannot learn in a crumbling building, a school that isn't fit to uplift our minds." We need to listen to our students, strengthen our communities, and improve our school buildings. I urge all of our colleagues to support the Rebuild America's Schools Act and press for its passage.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 34—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF BURMA AND BANGLADESH ENSURE THE SAFE, DIGNIFIED, VOLUNTARY, AND SUSTAINABLE RETURN OF THE ROHINGYA REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED BY THE CAMPAIGN OF ETHNIC CLEANSING CONDUCTED BY THE BURMESE MILITARY AND TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED JOURNALISTS, WA LONE AND KYAW SOE OO

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. Kaine, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 34

Whereas, on August 25, 2017, attacks on security posts in Burma by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army militant group resulted in a brutal, systematic, and disproportionate reprisal by the Burmese military and security forces on Rohingya villages in Rakhine State;

Whereas approximately 700,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh since the Burmese military commenced its scorched-earth campaign, with the burning of villages and local monuments, and reports of widespread gang rape, starvation, killing, and forcible deportation;

Whereas the August 2018 United Nations report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar states in paragraph 87 that "the Mission concluded . . . that there is sufficient information to warrant the investigation and prosecution of senior officials in the Tatmadaw chain of command, so that a competent court can determine their liability for genocide in relation to the situation in Rakhine State";

Whereas, on August 28, 2018, then-United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley reported to the United Nations Security Council that the Department of State had conducted interviews with 1,024 Rohingya refugees in camps throughout Cox's Bazar and that the results of the interviews were consistent with the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar;

Whereas, on September 24, 2018, the Department of State report titled, "Documentation of Atrocities in Northern Rakhine State", concluded that the military's attacks in Burma's Northern Rakhine State were "large-scale, widespread and seemingly geared toward both terrorizing the population and driving out the Rohingya residents" and that the "scope and scale of the military's operations indicate that they were well-planned and coordinated";

Whereas, on December 3, 2018, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum concluded that "there is compelling evidence that the Burmese military committed ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, and genocide against the Rohingya";

Whereas the Government of Burma has consistently denied access to the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar established to investigate human rights violations around the country;

Whereas the fundamental operational principles of voluntary repatriation are safety, to include legal and physical safety, and dignity, to include treatment with respect and full acceptance by their national authorities, including the full restoration of refugees' rights;

Whereas approximately 236,000 Rohingya refugees returned to Burma from Bangladesh under the terms of a 1992 agreement after a previous bout of violence against the Rohingya forced them to flee, only to continue to be denied citizenship, face prejudice, violence, and persecution, and in many instances be forced to live in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps with their freedom of movement restricted;

Whereas Burma's 1982 citizenship law stripped Rohingya of their Burmese citizenship, rendering them stateless;

Whereas the Government of Burma continues to systematically discriminate against the Rohingya people, a long-persecuted Muslim minority within Burma, including by continuing to restrict registration of Rohingya births and to deny them freedom of movement, access to healthcare, land, education, marriage, voting rights, and political participation;

Whereas the Government of Burma has repeatedly abused land use laws to unjustly seize land from Rohingya refugees;

Whereas the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) is working closely with the Government of Bangladesh and partners to provide protection and assistance to the Rohingya refugees and to support the host populations affected by the influx;

Whereas, on November 23, 2017, the Government of Burma and the Government of Bangladesh signed an agreement, known as the "Arrangement", on the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State, which is modeled after the 1992 repatriation agreement between Burma and Bangladesh;



Whereas the Arrangement includes references to restoring normalcy and human rights in Rakhine State, for refugee returns to comply with international standards of safety, dignity, and voluntariness, and to commencing a process to address root causes in line with the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations;

Whereas the Department of State has assessed that Burma has not made progress on the “more crucial” of the 88 recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission that are identified by Rohingya refugees as prerequisites to repatriation including freedom of movement, civil documentation, and a transparent pathway to citizenship;

Whereas, on June 6, 2018, the Government of Burma reached a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UNHCR and the United Nations Development Agency (UNDP) on its role in the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of Rakhine State refugees;

Whereas Rohingya refugees currently hosted in Bangladesh demonstrated in protest against an initial November 2018 repatriation plan between the Governments of Bangladesh and Burma, citing concerns for their security and the lack of meaningful political reforms in Burma to include full citizenship;

Whereas UNHCR, on January 4, 2019, reported that conditions in Burma’s Rakhine State remain “not conducive to return” on the heels of the Government of India’s regrettable decision to repatriate 16,000 Rohingya to Burma without having first ascertained the “voluntariness of their decision to return”;

Whereas, throughout this process, the Government of Burma has restricted media freedom and jailed journalists;

Whereas, on December 12, 2017, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, two journalists reporting and documenting atrocities against the Rohingya, were arrested and on January 10, 2018, formally prosecuted with violating the “Official Secrets Act”;

Whereas Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo had uncovered a massacre of 10 Rohingya men perpetrated by Burma’s security forces and aided by local Buddhist villagers in the village of Inn Din in Rakhine State;

Whereas, on September 3, 2018, Yangon northern district judge Ye Lwin ruled that Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo breached the colonial-era Official Secrets Act and sentenced them each to seven years in prison with hard labor;

Whereas, on January 11, 2019, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo’s appeal of their conviction before the Yangon Regional High Court was denied;

Whereas Time Magazine named Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo as co-recipients of 2018 Time Magazine’s “Person of the Year” in recognition for their courageous reporting;

Whereas Vice President Mike Pence tweeted his concern over the sentence against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo for “doing their job reporting on the atrocities being committed on the Rohingya people”;

Whereas United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley described the conviction as “another terrible stain on the Burmese government” and called for “their immediate and unconditional release”;

Whereas the Department of State’s annual Human Rights Report on Burma for the year 2017 states that—

(1) “legal provisions that allow the government to manipulate the courts for political ends, and these provisions were sometimes used to deprive citizens of due process and the right to a fair trial, particularly with regards to the freedom of expression”;

(2) “The government continued to detain and arrest journalists, activists, and critics of the government and the military during the year.”; and

(3) “Threats against and arrests of journalists increased. . . . Freedom of expression was more restricted during the year compared with 2016. This included a higher number of detentions of journalists using various laws, including laws carrying more severe punishments than those used previously.”;

Whereas, according to PEN America, the discontinuation of Radio Free Asia’s broadcasting in Myanmar on a domestic channel constitutes a further shrinking of the space for free expression in the country; and

Whereas, additionally, PEN America reports that—

(1) there continues to be increased legal threats, imprisonment, and physical harassment of journalists;

(2) there continues to be restrictions on the ability to report from and receive information on conflict areas; and

(3) the lack of reform of media laws and institutions is driving a decline in media freedom: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the violence and displacement inflicted on Burma’s Rohingya and other ethnic minorities;

(2) urges the Secretary of State to make a determination whether the actions by the Myanmar military constitute crimes against humanity or genocide and to work with interagency partners to impose targeted sanctions on Myanmar military officials, to include Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, responsible for these heinous acts through existing authorities;

(3) condemns the attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army militant group;

(4) calls on the Government of Burma to allow full access to Rakhine State and ensure the full participation of UNHCR, the internationally endorsed organization tasked with ensuring that refugee returns are voluntary, safe, dignified, and meet international refugee and human rights standards, and that the voices of refugees are represented in order to ensure the sustainability of such returns and to prevent further waves of displacement;

(5) commends the positive role of the Government of Bangladesh in receiving Rohingya refugees to date and urges the Government of Bangladesh to continue allowing the full participation of UNHCR and human rights organization in accessing refugee camps;

(6) calls on UNHCR and international non-governmental organizations to continue to play a role in monitoring repatriation efforts by the Governments of Bangladesh and Burma to ensure a process that meets international norms for voluntary, safe, and dignified repatriation;

(7) agrees that any return of Rohingya should include guarantees that any returns of refugees will be voluntary and dignified, that there will be no threats to protection or security upon return, that refugees will be able to return to their places of origin or other locations as desired, and be able to enjoy equal rights with others in Burma, including the restoration or granting of full citizenship, freedom of movement, and access to basic services;

(8) recognizes that any forced relocation of Rohingya refugees into temporary settlements, IDP camps, “model villages”, or other areas not of refugees’ choosing is unacceptable;

(9) calls on the Government of Burma to allow for a flexible and practical approach to dealing with evidence of Rohingya residence in Burma, recognizing that the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh possess a wide range of documents and that some refugees have no documents and will need to establish their residence by other means;

(10) calls on the Government of Burma to address root causes consistent with the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations and fully implement all of the recommendations of the Commission, including providing equal access to full restoration or granting of full citizenship for the Rohingya population;

(11) calls on the Government of Burma to acknowledge and address the issue of statelessness for the Rohingya, the deprivation of rights, and institutionalized and pervasive discrimination of the Rohingya population in order to bring about any sustainable solutions;

(12) commends the Government and the people of Bangladesh for their extraordinary generosity and efforts to provide shelter and relief for nearly 1,000,000 Rohingya refugees forced to flee their homes in Burma;

(13) calls on the Government of Bangladesh to ensure all refugees have freedom of movement and under no circumstances are subject to unsafe, involuntary, precipitous, or uninformed returns to Burma;

(14) calls for all the convictions against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo to be nullified, for the similar charges against many other journalists currently awaiting trial to be dropped, and for the immediate and unconditional release of these journalists;

(15) expresses concern about the Government of Myanmar’s crackdown on journalists and press freedom throughout the country;

(16) reaffirms the central role that independent and professional journalism plays in strengthening democratic governance, upholding the rule of law, mitigating conflict, and informing public opinion around the world; and

(17) calls upon the United States Government to continue the United States status as a top global donor nation to the humanitarian response in Burma and Bangladesh and for the President’s fiscal year 2020 budget request to reflect that longstanding United States commitment.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 59. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 60. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 61. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 62. Mr. Kaine submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 63. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 64. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 65. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr.

LANKFORD, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. BOOZMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1, *supra*.

SA 66. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 67. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 68. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 69. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. REED, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 70. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 71. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 72. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 73. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 74. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 75. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 76. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 77. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 78. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 79. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 80. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 59.** Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 403, insert the following:

### SEC. 404. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO BOYCOTTS OF ISRAEL UNDER EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ACT OF 1945.

Section 2(b)(1)(B) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635(b)(1)(B)) is amended in the sixth sentence by inserting after “child labor,” the following: “or opposing policies and actions that are politically motivated and are intended to penalize or otherwise limit commercial relations specifically with citizens or residents of Israel, entities organized under the laws of Israel, or the Government of Israel.”.

**SA 60.** Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

### TITLE V—AUTHORITY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO RESTRICT INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

#### SEC. 501. AUTHORITY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO RESTRICT INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN.

(a) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.**—Section 202 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8532) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended—

(A) by striking “should support” and inserting “should not interfere with”; and

(B) by striking “in the energy sector of Iran” and all that follows through “United States” and inserting “in the business sector in Iran, or prohibits or limits any person from engaging in investment activities in the business sector of Iran, until such time as all Federal laws that either expressly authorize or require the imposition of sanctions by the Federal Government on Iran are rescinded by an Act or Acts of Congress”.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended—

(A) by amending the subsection heading to read as follows:

“(b) **AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT INVESTMENT IN IRAN.**—”;

(B) by striking “Notwithstanding” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding”;

(C) by striking “may adopt and enforce measures that meet” and inserting “may—

“(A) adopt and enforce measures—

“(i) that meet”;

(D) by striking “subsection (c).” and inserting “subsection (c); or”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) to prohibit or limit any person from engaging in investment activities in Iran described in subsection (c); and

“(B) enter into interstate compacts regarding measures described in subparagraph (A).”

“(2) **DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.**—Enforcement of measures under paragraph (1) may include the imposition of disclosure and other transparency requirements to carry out paragraph (1).”.

(3) Subsection (c) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “\$20,000,000 or more in the energy sector” and inserting “\$10,000,000 or more—

“(A) in the energy sector”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) in any other business enterprise in Iran, including an entity that is owned or controlled by the Government of Iran; or”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”; and

(ii) by adding after “energy sector of Iran” the following: “or otherwise in a business enterprise in Iran, including an entity that is owned or controlled by the Government of Iran”.

(4) Subsection (f) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) **NONPREEMPTION; NO CONFLICT WITH UNITED STATES POLICY.**—A measure of a State or local government authorized under subsection (b), (i), or (j)—

“(1) is authorized and not preempted by any Federal law or regulation or any policy, agreement, or exercise of waiver authority of the executive branch; and

“(2) is consistent with United States Federal policy, including United States foreign policy.”.

(5) Subsection (g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **OWNED OR CONTROLLED.**—An entity is ‘owned or controlled’ by the Government of Iran if the Government of Iran—

“(A) holds more than 20 percent of the equity interest by vote or value in the entity;

“(B) has the right or ability to elect a majority of seats on the board of directors of the entity; or

“(C) otherwise controls the actions, policies, or personnel decisions of the entity.”.

(6) Subsection (h) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or subsection (i)” and inserting “and subsections (i) and (j)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsections (i) and (j)”.’

(7) Subsection (i) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **APPLICABILITY OF PRIOR PROVISIONS.**—Paragraphs (1) and (2) apply with respect to this section as in effect on the day before the effective date of the State Sanctions Against Iranian Terrorism Act.”.

(8) Section 202 is further amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

“(j) **APPLICABILITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any other provision of law, a State or local government may enforce a measure (without regard to the requirements of subsection (d), except as provided in paragraph (2)) adopted by the State or local government before the date of the enactment of the State Sanctions Against Iranian Terrorism Act (other than a measure covered by subsection (i)) that—

“(A) provides for the divestment of assets of the State or local government from, or prohibits the investment of the assets of the State or local government in, any person that the State or local government determines, using credible information available to the public, engages in investment activities in Iran (determined without regard to subsection (c)) or other business activities in Iran that are identified in the measure; or

“(B) prohibits or limits any person from engaging in investment activities in Iran described in subsection (c).”

“(2) **APPLICATION OF NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.**—A measure described in paragraph (1) shall be subject to the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) and the first sentence of paragraph (3) of subsection (d) on and after the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of the State Sanctions Against Iranian Terrorism Act.”.

(b) **CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL OF PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION RELATING TO SUNSET OF ACT.**—Section 401(a)

of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 855(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The provisions of this Act” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the provisions of this Act”;

(2) by striking “(1) the Government of Iran” and inserting “(A) the Government of Iran” and moving the text of subparagraph (A) (as redesignated) 2 ems to the right;

(3) by striking “(A) section 6(j)(1)(A)” and inserting “(i) section 6(j)(1)(A)” and moving the text of clause (i) (as redesignated) 2 ems to the right;

(4) by striking “(B) section 40(d)” and inserting “(ii) section 40(d)” and moving the text of clause (ii) (as redesignated) 2 ems to the right;

(5) by striking “(C) section 620A(a)” and inserting “(iii) section 620A(a)” and moving the text of clause (iii) (as redesignated) 2 ems to the right;

(6) by striking “(2) Iran has ceased” and inserting “(B) Iran has ceased”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL WITH RESPECT TO SUNSET OF SECTION 202.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 shall not terminate pursuant to a certification of the President submitted to Congress under subsection (a) if Congress, not later than 60 days after the date on which the President submits such certification, enacts a joint resolution disapproving such certification.

“(B) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.—A joint resolution described in subparagraph (A) and introduced not later than 60 days after the date on which the President submits a certification under subsection (a) shall be considered in the Senate and the House of Representatives in accordance with paragraphs (3) through (7) of section 8066(c) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act (as contained in Public Law 98-473), except that references in such paragraphs to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall be deemed to be references to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, respectively.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TITLE HEADING.—The heading for title II of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8531 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

**“TITLE II—RESTRICTIONS BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN”.**

(2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading for section 202 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8532) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 202. AUTHORITY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO RESTRICT INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN.”.**

(3) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by amending the item relating to title II to read as follows:

**“TITLE II—RESTRICTIONS BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON INVESTMENT IN IRAN”;**

and

(B) by amending the item relating to section 202 to read as follows:

**“Sec. 202. Authority of State and local governments to restrict investment activities in Iran.”.**

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to measures adopted by a State or local government on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, except as provided in section 202(j) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, as amended by this section.

**SA 61.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**TITLE \_\_\_\_ .—AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF FORCE TO DEFEND THE KURDS IN SYRIA**

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Authorization for Use of Military Force in Defense of the Kurds in Syria Resolution of 2019”.

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President is authorized to use the Armed Forces of the United States as the President determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to defend the Kurds in Syria.

(b) WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.—Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b)).

(2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this title supersedes any requirements of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

**SA 62.** Mr. Kaine submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 41, beginning on line 6, strike “**OR ISRAELI-CONTROLLED TERRITORIES**”.

On page 41, beginning on line 12, strike “from,” and all that follows through line 15 and insert “from or prohibit investment of the assets of the State or local government in—”.

On page 42, line 5, strike “or Israeli-controlled territories”.

On page 42, beginning on line 12, strike “notice—” and all that follows through line 19 and insert “notice to each entity to which the measure is to be applied.”.

On page 43, strike lines 12 through 21.

**SA 63.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the

appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 26, line 14, insert after “Syria” the following: “for the construction or engineering of military installations or structures intended for a military purpose”.

**SA 64.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 42, beginning on line 2, strike “that is” and all that follows through “Government of Israel” on line 7, and insert the following: “that penalizes, inflicts economic harm on, or otherwise limits commercial relations with Israel or persons doing business in Israel or Israeli-controlled territories for purposes of coercing political action by the Government of Israel”.

**SA 65.** Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. BOOZMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SENSE OF SENATE ON WITHDRAWALS OF UNITED STATES FORCES FROM SYRIA AND AFGHANISTAN.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The foreign terrorist organization al Qaeda, responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001, maintains a presence in Afghanistan.

(2) The Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham, better known by its acronym ISIS, flourished in the chaos unleashed by the civil war in Syria and at one point controlled extensive territory in Iraq and Syria.

(3) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have murdered thousands of innocent civilians.

(4) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have proven resilient and have regrouped when the United States and its partners have withdrawn from the fight against them.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—The Senate—

(1) acknowledges that the United States military and our partners have made significant progress in the campaign against al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS), and honors the contributions and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who have served on the front lines of this fight;

(2) recognizes the continuing threat to the homeland and our allies posed by al Qaeda

and ISIS, which maintain an ability to operate in Syria and Afghanistan;

(3) expresses concern that Iran has supported the Taliban in Afghanistan and Hizballah and the Assad regime in Syria, and has sought to frustrate diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts in these two countries;

(4) recognizes the positive role the United States and its partners have played in Syria and Afghanistan fighting terrorist groups, countering Iranian aggression, deterring the further use of chemical weapons, and protecting human rights;

(5) warns that a precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from the on-going fight against these groups, without effective, countervailing efforts to secure gains in Syria and Afghanistan, could allow terrorists to regroup, destabilize critical regions, and create vacuums that could be filled by Iran or Russia, to the detriment of United States interests and those of our allies;

(6) recognizes that al Qaeda and ISIS pose a global threat, which merits increased international contributions to the counterterrorism, diplomatic, and stabilization efforts underway in Syria and Afghanistan;

(7) recognizes that diplomatic efforts to secure peaceful, negotiated solutions to the conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan are necessary to long-term stability and counterterrorism efforts in the Middle East and South Asia;

(8) acknowledges the progress made by Special Representative Khalilzad in his efforts to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan;

(9) calls upon the Administration to conduct a thorough review of the military and diplomatic strategies in Syria and Afghanistan, including an assessment of the risk that withdrawal from those countries could strengthen the power and influence of Russia and Iran in the Middle East and South Asia and undermine diplomatic efforts toward negotiated, peaceful solutions;

(10) requests that the Administration, as part of this review, solicit the views of Israel, our regional partners, and other key troop-contributing nations in the fight against al Qaeda and ISIS;

(11) reiterates support for international diplomatic efforts to facilitate peaceful, negotiated resolutions to the on-going conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan on terms that respect the rights of innocent civilians and deny safe havens to terrorists;

(12) calls upon the Administration to pursue a strategy that sets the conditions for the long-term defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS, as well as the protection of regional partners and allies, while ensuring that Iran cannot dominate the region or threaten Israel;

(13) encourages close collaboration between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch to ensure continuing strong, bipartisan support for United States military operations in Syria and Afghanistan; and

(14) calls upon the Administration to certify that conditions have been met for the enduring defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS before initiating any significant withdrawal of United States forces from Syria or Afghanistan.

**SA 66.** Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for

other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

**SEC. 336. REPORT ON UNITED STATES POLICY IN SYRIA.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The regime of Bashar al Assad has committed gross atrocities against the people of Syria.

(2) The commission of these atrocities led to the eruption, and continuation, of the Syrian civil war.

(3) The ensuing conflict has resulted in the death of over 400,000 Syrian civilians.

(4) The Syrian civil war has caused over 5,500,000 Syrians to flee their country as refugees and over 6,000,000 others to be displaced from their homes inside Syria.

(5) The Assad regime has repeatedly used chemical weapons against its own people.

(6) In 2011 the Assad regime released from its prisons many of the terrorists who would subsequently lead the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

(7) ISIS has organized, executed, and inspired countless terror attacks throughout the world since its emergence, including in the United States.

(8) By the end of 2014, ISIS controlled one third of the territory of Syria and one third of the territory of Iraq.

(9) Since 2014, the United States has led Operation Inherent Resolve, with the help of allies, to degrade and destroy ISIS.

(10) Approximately 2,000 members of the United States Armed Forces are deployed to Syria under Operation Inherent Resolve.

(11) The United States and its allies have succeeded in seizing back nearly all the physical territory held by ISIS in 2014.

(12) Tens of thousands of ISIS terrorists remain in Syria and Iraq despite having lost much of their territorial “Caliphate”.

(13) The Islamic State continues to pose a threat to the security of the United States and that of its allies.

(14) Syrian Kurdish fighters in the People’s Protection Units, or YPG, have served as effective and trustworthy allies in the fight against ISIS.

(15) The Government of Turkey views these Kurdish forces as an enemy and has expressed its intention to destroy them.

(16) The support of the Russian and Iranian regimes in Syria has been invaluable to the reinforcement of the Assad government.

(17) Russian-backed forces have directly assaulted United States Armed Forces deployed in Syria on at least one occasion.

(18) The Government of Iran seeks to entrench its presence in Syria as a means of supporting its terrorist proxies, like Hezbollah and Hamas, and harming its enemies, like Israel.

(19) Ensuring the existence of Israel, America’s most important ally in the Middle East, remains a key United States interest in the region.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the pursuit of a clear, publicly-articulated strategy will guide any withdrawal of United States Armed Forces in Syria;

(2) such a strategy recognizes that ISIS and al Qaeda terrorists in Syria continue to pose a threat to the United States and its allies;

(3) such a strategy includes among its objectives the complete degradation and long-term destruction of ISIS;

(4) such a strategy will seek to prevent the emergence of another terrorist group in Syria capable of threatening the security of the United States once ISIS is defeated;

(5) such a strategy includes the consideration of and planning for the security inter-

ests of the Syrian Kurdish allies of the United States;

(6) such a strategy recognizes the destabilizing impact of Iran in Syria;

(7) such a strategy aims to ensure that Iranian-commanded forces in Syria do not benefit from the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces; and

(8) such a strategy aims to ensure that the Syrian civil war ends through peaceful, political means.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report detailing United States policy in Syria.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as an authorization for the use of military force in Syria or elsewhere.

**SA 67.** Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. —. DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON NET WORTH AND ASSETS OF CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMAD BIN SALMAN.**

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report on the personal net worth and assets of the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad bin Salman.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of the most significant senior foreign political figures and members of the royal family in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as determined by their closeness to Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

(2) The estimated net worth and known sources of income of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, his family members, and any individual identified in paragraph (1), including assets, investments, bank accounts, other business interests, and relevant beneficial ownership information.

(c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

**SA 68.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **SENSE OF SENATE ON FORMAL GRANT BY THE AFRICAN UNION OF OBSERVER STATUS FOR ISRAEL.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) Israel enjoyed observer status in the predecessor organization to the African Union known as the Organization of African Unity until its dissolution in 2002.

(2) The late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi blocked Israel from obtaining observer status at the African Union in 2002.

(3) Israel, in the span of a few decades, has emerged as a developed nation and therefore offers an example of a path to economic progress for developing countries.

(4) Israel has long been an active and valuable partner to many African nations, cultivating strong numerous bilateral relationships across the continent.

(b) **SENSE OF SENATE.**—The Senate—

(1) encourages heightened cooperation between Israel and African nations, particularly in areas that are significant in progress towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(2) expects that the granting of observer status to Israel by the African Union will help enable such cooperation to develop between Israel and the African Union; and

(3) calls for the African Union to immediately accept the petition of Israel for observer status.

**SA 69.** Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. REED, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**TITLE V—SAUDI ARABIA ACCOUNTABILITY AND YEMEN ACT OF 2019**

**SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Saudi Arabia Accountability and Yemen Act of 2019”.

**Subtitle A—Peaceful Resolution of the Civil War in Yemen and Protection of Civilians**

**SEC. 511. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support United Nations-led efforts for a comprehensive political settlement that leads to a territorially unified, stable, and independent Yemen;

(2) to insist on the urgent need for a political solution, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015), or any successor United Nations Security Council Resolution demanding an end to violence in Yemen and peaceful resolution of the conflict in that country;

(3) to reject all statements, policies, or actions advocating for a military solution to the civil war in Yemen;

(4) to encourage long-standing United States security partners, including the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Government of the United Arab Emirates, to take the lead in confidence-building measures that open space for political dialogue to end the war in Yemen and address the humanitarian crisis; and

(5) to support the implementation of the agreements reached between the parties to the conflict at Stockholm, Sweden on December 13, 2018, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2451 (2018).

**SEC. 512. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) continued direct negotiations between the Government of Saudi Arabia, the internationally-recognized Government of Yemen, and representatives of the Houthi movement (also known as “Ansar Allah”) are required—

(A) to reach a political solution;

(B) to implement the agreements reached between the Saudi-led coalition, the internationally recognized Government of Yemen, local Yemeni forces, and Ansar Allah at Stockholm, Sweden on December 13, 2018 (referred to in this subtitle as the “Stockholm Agreement”);

(C) to address the suffering of the Yemeni people; and

(D) to counter efforts by Iran, al Qaeda, and ISIS to exploit instability for their own malign purposes;

(2) the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Government of the United Arab Emirates bear significant responsibility for the economic stabilization and eventual reconstruction of Yemen; and

(3) the United States and the international community must continue to support the work of United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths to achieve a political solution to the civil war in Yemen, including by supporting the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2451 (2018).

**SEC. 513. UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR ENDING THE WAR IN YEMEN.**

(a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this subtitle, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until a complete cessation of hostilities in the Yemen civil war, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of National Intelligence shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on the progress of the United States strategy to end the war in Yemen.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The briefing required under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) a summary of the United States national security interests threatened by continued civil war and instability in Yemen;

(2) a description of the steps necessary to end the civil war in Yemen and achieve a territorially unified, stable, and independent Yemen;

(3) a description of efforts to implement the Stockholm Agreement;

(4) a description of whether the Saudi-led coalition, the internationally recognized Government of Yemen, local Yemeni forces, and Ansar Allah are taking the necessary steps referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3);

(5) a description of United States activities to encourage all parties to take the necessary steps referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3);

(6) an assessment of the threat posed by Al Qaeda and the Islamic State in Yemen to United States national security, including—

(A) a comprehensive list of all sources of support received by these groups; and

(B) an assessment regarding whether the activities of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and the Islamic State in Yemen have ex-

panded or diminished since the beginning of the war in Yemen;

(7) an explanation of how the United States has used, and plans to use, its military and diplomatic leverage—

(A) to end the civil war in Yemen; and

(B) to move the stakeholders in the war toward a political process to end the war;

(8) an assessment of Iran’s activities in Yemen, including—

(A) a comprehensive summary of all recipients of illicit Iranian support in Yemen; and

(B) an assessment regarding whether the scope of Iran’s influence and activities in Yemen have increased or decreased since the beginning of the war in Yemen;

(9) a description of Russia’s activities in Yemen and an assessment of Russia’s objectives for such activities; and

(10) any other matters relevant to ending the civil war in Yemen.

**SEC. 514. REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, INCLUDING WAR CRIMES, AND OTHER HARM TO CIVILIANS IN YEMEN.**

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) all stakeholders in the conflict in Yemen should end all practices involving arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, and other unlawful treatment;

(2) all stakeholders in the conflict in Yemen should reveal the fate or the location of all persons who have been subjected to enforced disappearance by such stakeholders;

(3) all persons who remain in custody as a result of the conflict in Yemen should be granted immediate access to their families;

(4) the locations of all detention facilities run or supervised by members of the Saudi-led coalition should be revealed and brought under the supervision of the Prosecutor General of Yemen;

(5) independent monitors should be granted access to all places of detention in Yemen;

(6) all stakeholders to the conflict in Yemen should fully cooperate with the United Nations Panel of Experts on Yemen.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the causes and consequences of civilian harm occurring in the armed conflict in Yemen, including war crimes, and gross violations of human rights as a result of the actions of all parties to the conflict.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) a description of civilian harm occurring in the context of the armed conflict in Yemen, including—

(A) mass casualty incidents; and

(B) damage to, and destruction of, civilian infrastructure and services, including—

(i) hospitals and other medical facilities;

(ii) electrical grids;

(iii) water systems;

(iv) ports and port infrastructure; and

(v) other critical infrastructure;

(2) violations of the law of armed conflict committed during the war in Yemen by—

(A) all forces involved in the Saudi-led coalition and all forces fighting on its behalf;

(B) members of the Houthi movement and all forces fighting on its behalf;

(C) members of violent extremist organizations; and

(D) any other combatants in the conflict;

(3) as examples of violations referred to in paragraph (2)—

(A) alleged war crimes;

(B) specific instances of failure by the parties to the conflict to exercise distinction, proportionality, and precaution in the use of force in accordance with the law of armed conflict;

(C) arbitrary denials of humanitarian access and the resulting impact on the alleviation of human suffering;

(D) detention-related abuses;

(E) the use of child soldiers, including members of the Sudanese paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (previously known as the “Janjaweed militia”); and

(F) other acts that may constitute violations of the law of armed conflict; and

(4) recommendations for establishing accountability mechanisms for the civilian harm, war crimes, other violations of the law of armed conflict, and gross violations of human rights perpetrated by parties to the conflict in Yemen, including—

(A) the potential for prosecuting individuals perpetrating, organizing, directing, or ordering such violations; and

(B) establishing condolence payments for the impacted members of the civilian population.

(d) FORM.—The report required under subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

#### SEC. 515. SUSPENSION OF ARMS TRANSFERS TO SAUDI ARABIA.

(a) RESTRICTION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2020, the United States Government—

(1) may not sell, transfer, or authorize licenses for export to the Government of Saudi Arabia any item designated under Category III, IV, VII, or VIII on the United States Munitions List pursuant to section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)); and

(2) shall suspend any licenses or other approvals that were issued before the date of the enactment of this Act for the export to the Government of Saudi Arabia of any item designated under Category IV of the United States Munitions List.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to sales, transfers, or export licenses relating to ground-based missile defense systems.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the restriction under subsection (a) for items designated under Categories III, VII, and VIII of the United States Munitions List not earlier than 30 days after—

(1) the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, submits a written, unclassified certification to the appropriate congressional committees stating that—

(A) such waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(B) the Saudi-led coalition, during the 180-day period immediately preceding the date of such certification, has continuously—

(i) honored a complete cessation of hostilities in the Yemen civil war, including ending all air strikes and all offensive ground operations that are not associated with al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula or ISIS;

(ii) fully supported, in statements and actions, the work of United Nations Special Envoy Martin Griffiths to find a political solution to the conflict in Yemen; and

(iii) abstained from any actions to restrict, delay, or interfere with the delivery of cargo to or within Yemen unless—

(I) such action was taken exclusively to carry out inspections based on specific intelligence that a cargo shipment contains weapons prohibited under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015); and

(II) the Saudi-led coalition timely submitted any reports required under such Resolution after the conclusion of such action; and

(C) Ansar Allah or associated forces, during the 180-day period immediately preceding the date of such certification—

(i) launched missile or unmanned aerial vehicle strikes into Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates;

(ii) conducted ground incursions into the territory of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates;

(iii) accepted weapons, weapons components, funding, or military training from the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(iv) attacked vessels in the Red Sea; or

(v) prohibited or otherwise restricted, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of humanitarian or commercial shipments to and within Yemen; and

(2) the Comptroller General of the United States, not later than 45 days after the submission of the certification under paragraph (1), submits a written, unclassified report to the appropriate congressional committees assessing the responsiveness, completeness, and accuracy of such certification.

(d) CLASSIFIED BRIEFING.—If the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense determine that Ansar Allah has engaged in any of the actions described in subsection (c)(1)(C), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall provide a classified briefing to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 10 days after submitting the certification under subsection (c)(1) to provide details to support such determination.

#### SEC. 516. PROHIBITION ON IN-FLIGHT REFUELING OF SAUDI COALITION AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN YEMEN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No Federal funds may be obligated or expended under section 2342 of title 10, United States Code, or under any other applicable statutory authority, to provide in-flight refueling of Saudi or Saudi-led coalition non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees detailing—

(1) the expenses incurred by the United States in providing in-flight refueling services for Saudi or Saudi-led coalition non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the civil war in Yemen between March 2015 and November 11, 2018; and

(2) the extent to which the expenses referred to in paragraph (1) have been reimbursed by members of the Saudi-led coalition.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) the total expenses incurred by the United States in providing in-flight refueling services, including fuel, flight hours, and other applicable expenses, to Saudi or Saudi-led coalition, non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the civil war in Yemen;

(2) the amount of the expenses described in paragraph (1) that have been reimbursed by each member of the Saudi-led coalition; and

(3) actions taken by the United States to recoup the unreimbursed expenses described in paragraph (1), including any commitments by members of the Saudi-led coalition to reimburse the United States for such expenses.

(d) SUNSET.—The reporting requirement under subsection (b) shall cease to be effective on the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits written certification to the appropriate congressional committees that all of the expenses incurred by the United States in providing in-flight refueling services for Saudi or Saudi-led coalition non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the civil war in Yemen have been reimbursed.

#### SEC. 517. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS HINDERING HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND THREATENING THE PEACE OR STABILITY OF YEMEN.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should continue to implement Executive Order 13611 (77 Fed. Reg. 29533), relating to blocking property of persons threatening the peace, security, or stability of Yemen.

(b) SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to each person that the President determines—

(1)(A) is knowingly blocking access to Yemeni ports, ports of entry, or other facilities used by the United Nations, its specialized agencies and implementing partners, national and international nongovernmental organizations, or any other actors engaged in humanitarian relief activities in Yemen; or

(B) is otherwise hindering the efforts of such organizations to deliver humanitarian relief, including through diversion of goods and materials intended to provide relief to civilians in Yemen;

(2)(A) is knowingly threatening the humanitarian actors referred to in paragraph (1)(A); or

(B) is engaging in acts of violence against such actors in Yemen or across conflict lines and borders;

(3) is responsible for actions or policies that are intended to undermine—

(A) the United Nations-led political process to end the conflict in Yemen; or

(B) efforts to promote stabilization and reconstruction in Yemen;

(4) is a successor entity to a person referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3);

(5) owns or controls, or is owned or controlled by, a person referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3);

(6) is acting for or, on behalf of, a person referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3); or

(7) has knowingly provided, or attempted to provide, financial, material, technological, or other support for, or goods or services in support of, a person referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3).

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—In accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the President shall block all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property—

(i) are in the United States;

(ii) are transported into the United States; or

(iii) are in, or come into, the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(i) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES.—The Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien subject to subsection (b).

(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of any such officer or Secretary) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien subject to subsection (b), regardless of when such visa was issued.

(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.



(2) **INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.**—The requirements under section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of the imposition of sanctions under this section.

(3) **PENALTIES.**—Any person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation described in subsection (b), or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out such paragraph, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section.

**SEC. 518. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS SUPPORTING THE HOUTHIS IN YEMEN.**

(a) **DETERMINATION.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall determine if the Houthi movement (also known as “Ansar Allah”) has engaged meaningfully in United Nations-led efforts for a comprehensive political settlement that leads to a territorially unified, stable, and independent Yemen.

(b) **SANCTIONS.**—If the President is unable to make the determination described in subsection (a), the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) on any person that the President determines—

(1) has knowingly assisted, sponsored, provided, or attempted to provide significant financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the Houthi movement in Yemen, its successor entities, entities that own or control, or are owned or controlled by, the Houthi movement, or entities acting for, or on behalf of, the Houthi movement;

(2) has knowingly engaged in any activity that materially contributes to the supply, sale, or direct or indirect transfer to or from the Houthi movement in Yemen, its successor entities, entities that own or control, or are owned or controlled by, the Houthi movement, or entities acting for or on behalf of the Houthi movement, of any firearms or ammunition, battle tanks, armored vehicles, artillery or mortar systems, aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems, or explosive mines of any type (as such terms are defined for the purpose of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms), ground-to-air missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, or related materiel, including spare parts;

(3) has knowingly provided any technical training, financial resources or services, advice, other services or assistance related to the supply, sale, transfer, manufacture, maintenance, or use of arms and related materiel described in paragraph (2) to the Houthi movement in Yemen, its successor entities, entities that own or control, or are owned or controlled by, the Houthi movement, or entities acting for or on behalf of the Houthi movement;

(4) is a successor entity to a person described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3);

(5) is an entity that owns or controls, or is owned or controlled by, a person described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3); or

(6) is an entity that is acting for, or on behalf of, a person referred to in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

**(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) **ASSET BLOCKING.**—In accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the President shall block all transactions in property, or interests in property, of a person subject to subsection (b) if such property or interests in property—

(i) are in the United States;

(ii) are transported into the United States; or

(iii) are in, or come into, the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) **ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—

(i) **EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES.**—The Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien subject to subsection (b).

(ii) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of any such officer or Secretary) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien subject to subsection (b), regardless of when such visa was issued.

(II) **EFFECT OF REVOCATION.**—A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(C) **DENIAL OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.**—Any letter of offer and acceptance, or license to export, any defense article or defense service controlled for export under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) or the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.), as continued in force by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), requested by a person described in subsection (b) shall be denied until the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary of State certifies to Congress that any action by such person described in subsection (b) has ceased.

(2) **INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.**—The requirements under section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of the imposition of sanctions under this section.

(3) **PENALTIES.**—Any person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (b), or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out such paragraph, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section.

(d) **EXCEPTION.**—The sanctions described in subsection (c)(1) shall not apply to any act incidental or necessary to the provision of urgently needed humanitarian assistance.

**SEC. 519. GAO REVIEW OF UNITED STATES MILITARY SUPPORT TO SAUDI-LED COALITION.**

(a) **REVIEW.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the United States military support to the Saudi-led coalition that evaluates—

(1) the manner and extent to which the United States military provides support to the Saudi-led coalition;

(2) how the Department of Defense prioritizes aerial refueling capabilities in support of the Saudi-led coalition;

(3) the manner and extent to which the United States has been reimbursed for aerial refueling support of Saudi-led coalition aircraft;

(4) whether and how the Department of Defense determines the extent to which its advice and assistance has reduced civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure, including evaluating a differentiation between dynamic and deliberate targeting by the Saudi-led coalition;

(5) whether and how the Department of Defense determines the efficacy of defensive advice and assistance to the Saudi-led coalition, including with respect to ballistic mis-

siles and other threats to the sovereignty of regional partners; and

(6) the responsiveness, completeness, and accuracy of any certifications submitted pursuant to section 1290 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232).

(b) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall provide the preliminary results of the review conducted under subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees.

(c) **FINAL REPORT.**—During the briefing required under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall notify the appropriate congressional committees when a final report summarizing the results of the review conducted under subsection (a) will be submitted to such committees.

**SEC. 520. EMERGENCY PROTECTION FOR YEMENI CULTURAL PROPERTY.**

Section 3 of the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act (Public Law 114-151; 130 Stat. 369) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND YEMEN**” after “**SYRIAN**”;

(2) in subsection (a), by inserting “or Yemen” after “Syria” each place such term appears;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(i), by inserting “or the Government of Yemen” after “Government of Syria”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) by inserting “or Yemen” after “Syria” each of the first 2 places such term appears; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “or the United States and Yemen, as applicable,” after “United States and Syria”;

(4) in subsection (c), by inserting “or Yemen” after “Syria” each place such term appears; and

(5) in subsection (d), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) **ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR ETHNOLOGICAL MATERIAL OF SYRIA OR YEMEN.**—The term ‘archaeological or ethnological material of Syria or Yemen’ means cultural property (as defined in section 302 of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2601)) that—

“(A) is unlawfully removed from Syria on or after March 15, 2011; or

“(B) is unlawfully removed from Yemen on or after March 15, 2015.”

**Subtitle B—Saudi Arabia Accountability**

**SEC. 521. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1263 of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(b)” and inserting “(c)”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (j) as subsections (c) through (k), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) **JAMAL KHASHOGGI.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the Saudi Arabia Accountability and Yemen Act of 2019, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to any foreign person, including any official of the government of Saudi Arabia or member of the royal family of Saudi Arabia that the President determines, based on credible evidence—

“(1) was responsible for, or complicit in, ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing an act or acts contributing to or causing the death of Jamal Khashoggi; or

“(2) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of an activity described in paragraph (1).”;

(4) in subsection (d), as redesignated, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection (a)”;

(5) in subsection (f), as redesignated, by striking “subsection (b)(1)” and inserting “subsection (c)(1)”;

(6) in subsection (j), as redesignated, by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection (a)”;

(7) in subsection (k), as redesignated, by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

“(2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

“(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

“(4) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

“(5) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.”

(b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 45 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of National Intelligence, shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 1263(k) of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, as amended by subsection (a)(7)) regarding the implementation of the amendment made by subsection (a)(3).

#### SEC. 522. REPORT ON SAUDI ARABIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in accordance with section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)), shall submit an unclassified, written report to Congress that—

(1) includes the information required under such section 502B(c);

(2) describes the extent to which officials of the Government of Saudi Arabia, including members of the military or security services, are responsible for or complicit in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, including violations of the human rights of journalists, bloggers, and those who support women's rights or religious freedom;

(3) describes the extent to which the Government of Saudi Arabia—

(A) has knowingly blocked access to Yemeni ports, ports of entry, or other facilities used by the United Nations, its specialized agencies and implementing partners, national and international nongovernmental organizations, or any other actors engaged in humanitarian relief activities in Yemen;

(B) has hindered the efforts of the organizations referred to in subparagraph (A) to deliver humanitarian relief, including through diversion of goods and materials intended to provide relief to civilians in Yemen;

(C) has prohibited or directly or indirectly restricted the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance to Yemen; and

(D) complied with the Secretary of State's statement on October 30, 2018, related to “ending the conflict in Yemen”; and

(4) identifies the percentage by which civilian casualties and deaths, respectively, increased as a result of Saudi coalition air strikes in Yemen between November 2017 and August 2018.

#### Subtitle C—General Provisions

#### SEC. 531. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title may be construed to limit the authority of the President pursu-

ant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

#### SEC. 532. SUNSET.

This title shall cease to be effective on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SA 70.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 1 day after enactment.

**SA 71.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

**SA 72.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 3 days after enactment.

**SA 73.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “3” and insert “4”.

**SA 74.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 5 days after enactment.

**SA 75.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “5” and insert “6”.

**SA 76.** Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ARE OFFICIALS, AGENTS, OR AFFILIATES OF, OR OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY, IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act”.

(b) **ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS.**—Section 301(a) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and as appropriate thereafter,” and inserting “Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, and every 180 days thereafter,”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “, or owned or controlled by,” after “affiliates of”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) identify foreign persons with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to determine that the foreign persons have, directly or indirectly, conducted one or more sensitive transactions or activities described in subsection (c) for or on behalf of a foreign person described in paragraph (1).”

(c) **AUTHORIZATION; PRIORITY FOR INVESTIGATION; REPORTS.**—Section 301(b) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **AUTHORIZATION; PRIORITY FOR INVESTIGATION; REPORTS.**—

“(1) **AUTHORIZATION.**—In identifying foreign persons pursuant to subsection (a)(1) as owned or controlled by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the President is authorized to identify foreign persons in which Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps has an ownership interest of less than 50 percent.

“(2) **PRIORITY FOR INVESTIGATION.**—In identifying foreign persons pursuant to subsection (a)(1) as officials, agents, or affiliates

of, or owned or controlled by, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the President shall investigate—

“(A) foreign persons identified under section 560.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to the definition of the Government of Iran); and

“(B) foreign persons for which there is a reasonable basis to find that the person has conducted or attempted to conduct one or more sensitive transactions or activities described in subsection (c).

“(3) REPORT.—

“(A) DETERMINATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The President shall determine whether each foreign person described in clause (ii) is owned or controlled by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.

“(ii) FOREIGN PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The foreign persons described in this clause are the following:

“(I) The Telecommunication Company of Iran.

“(II) The Mobile Telecommunication Company of Iran (MTCI).

“(III) The Calcein Public Company.

“(IV) The Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company.

“(V) The Iran Tractor Motors Manufacturing Company.

“(VI) The Iran Zinc Mines Development Company.

“(VII) The National Iranian Lead and Zinc Company.

“(VIII) The Iran Mineral Products Company.

“(IX) Tosee Energy Paivaran Company.

“(B) REPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the determinations made under subparagraph (A) together with the reasons for those determinations.

“(ii) FORM.—A report submitted under clause (i) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(4) ADDITIONAL REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a detailed list of foreign persons in which there is a reasonable basis to determine that Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps has an ownership interest of not less than 33 percent.

“(B) FORM.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.”

(d) SENSITIVE TRANSACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Section 301(c) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “\$1,000,000” and inserting “\$500,000”; and

(B) by inserting “Iranian financial institution or” after “involving a”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraphs:

“(3) a transaction to provide material support for an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)) or support for an act of international terrorism (as defined in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note));

“(4) a transaction to provide material support to a foreign person whose property and

interests in property have been blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism);

“(5) a transaction to provide material support for—

“(A) the Government of Syria or any agency or instrumentality thereof; or

“(B) any entity owned or controlled by the Government of Syria, including for purposes of post-conflict reconstruction;”.

(e) WAIVER OF IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Section 301(e) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “(A) determines” and inserting “(A)(i) determines”;

(B) by striking “(B) submits” and inserting “(ii) submits”;

(C) by striking “(i) identifies” and inserting “(I) identifies”;

(D) by striking “(ii) sets” and inserting “(II) sets”;

(E) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) with respect to a foreign person identified under subsection (a)(3) by reason of having conducted or attempted to conduct one or more sensitive transactions or activities described in subsection (c)(5), also certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps is significantly decreasing provision of direct or indirect material support to the Government of Syria or Hezbollah's operations in Syria.”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (1)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A)(ii)”.

(f) REGULATIONS, IMPLEMENTATION, PENALTIES, AND DEFINITIONS.—Section 301 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ‘foreign person’ means—

“(A) an individual who is not a United States person;

“(B) a corporation, partnership, or other nongovernmental entity that is not a United States person; or

“(C) any representative, agent, or instrumentality of, or an individual working on behalf of, a foreign government.

“(2) IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.—The term ‘Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps’ includes any senior foreign political figure (as defined in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations) of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.”.

(g) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the heading of section 301 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 301. IDENTIFICATION OF, AND IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO, FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ARE OFFICIALS, AGENTS, OR AFFILIATES OF, OR OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY, IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.”;

and

(2) in the table of contents, by striking the item relating to section 301 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 301. Identification of, and imposition of sanctions with respect to, foreign persons that are officials, agents, or affiliates of, or owned or controlled by, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.”.

(h) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to conduct described in section 301(a) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, as amended by this section, engaged in on or after such date of enactment.

**SA 77.** Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 43, beginning on line 13, strike “that a prospective contractor” and insert “only in the case of a prospective contractor with 50 or more employees, that the prospective contractor”.

**SA 78.** Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 42, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

(1) EXCLUSION OF SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS.—The State or local government measure shall not apply to any sole proprietorship.

**SA 79.** Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**TITLE —PROMOTION OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR KURDISH ALLIES IN SYRIA**  
**SEC. . SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Promotion of Peace and Security Act”.

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . AUTHORIZATION.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The President is hereby authorized to undertake military assistance and use of armed forces, if the President determines it necessary and appropriate, to defend the Kurds in Syria against armed aggression from any country or terrorist organization.

(b) **WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.**—Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b)).

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—Nothing in this title supersedes any requirements of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

**SA 80.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS****SEC. 501. SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ITS SUPPORT OF MILITANT GROUPS THAT THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The goals of the Government of Iran are to expand its regional influence by military means and by destabilizing its neighbors by all means.

(2) Since 1979, the Iranian regime has engaged in various destabilizing activities that undermine the national security of the United States and its regional allies and partners.

(3) The Government of Iran does this by providing a wide range of support to militant groups and by increasing its nuclear and conventional capability.

(4) The Department of State has designated Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism since 1984 and has characterized Iran as the “most active state sponsor of terrorism” in the world.

(5) Iranian leadership has repeatedly called for the destruction of the United States and Israel.

(6) According to the Department of State’s Country Reports on Terrorism, Iran has armed Hizballah, Hamas and other terrorist organizations, providing hundreds of millions of dollars in support, and training thousands of their fighters.

(7) Weapons supplied by the Government of Iran have targeted United States citizens, most notably the Iranian-supplied Explosive

sively Formed Projectiles, the most deadly and sophisticated Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) on the battlefield, which have killed and injured thousands of members of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

(8) Thwarting Iran’s hegemonic ambitions in the region brings long-term peace and stability, which thereby promotes the security of the United States and our partners.

(b) **SENSE OF THE SENATE.**—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States Government should reaffirm its commitment not to equip the Government of Iran with the material and strategic means to further finance or expand acts of terrorism; and

(2) the United States Government should reaffirm its commitment to encourage global and regional security in the Middle East by strongly supporting allies and strategic partners.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on China and Russia.

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Nicole R. Nason, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Drug Pricing in America: A Prescription for Change, Part I”.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS**

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Access to Care: Health Centers and Providers in Underserved Communities”.

**COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an organizational and business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Open Hearing on Worldwide Threats”.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 1 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY**

The Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Examining Department of Defense enterprise-wide cybersecurity policies and architecture.”

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2019**

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon, Wednesday, January 30; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 1 for debate only.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 12 NOON TOMORROW**

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:17 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 12 noon.